

Recruitment strategies for reproductive outcome research among young adult female survivors of childhood cancer

Abstract Authors: Brooke Cherven^{1,2}, PhD, MPH, RN, Ebonee Harris¹, MPH, Hayden Barrows³, BS, Tracey Knabe⁴, MA, Tracey Huitt⁵, RN, Karen Burns⁴, MD, Jenna Demedis³, MD, MS, Holly Hoefgen⁵, MD, Ann Mertens^{1,2}, PhD, James L. Klosky^{1,2}, PhD, ABPP

¹Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, US ²Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, US ³Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado, US ⁴Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Cincinnati, OH, US ⁵Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO, US

Purpose: Reproductive outcome research is a priority in Oncofertility. Establishing representative cohorts can be challenging, particularly among young adult survivors of childhood cancer who are years past cancer treatment. The purpose of this abstract is to describe recruitment strategies in a mixed methods multi-site study evaluating reproductive health among young adult female survivors of childhood cancer.

Methods: Institutional clinical databases/registries were used at four pediatric cancer centers to identify all eligible female survivors (18-29 years of age, >1 year from cancer treatment) with a history of gonadotoxic treatment. Patients were recruited to participate in an online survey, with the option to complete a qualitative interview. Eligible patient lists were randomized, and patients were recruited consecutively through email, phone calls, mailings, and/or patient portal messages (max of five contact attempts). Recruitment outcomes were tracked (enrolled, declined/passive refusal, and unable to be contacted). Enrolled participants and non-participants were compared by race/ethnicity and age.

Results: A total of 927 patients met eligibility and were recruited for the study; 325 enrolled (35.1%), 107 (11.5%) declined, and 495 (53.4%) were unable to be contacted. Among those able to be contacted (n=432), 75.2% enrolled. Across sites, recruitment rates were similar (27.0%-38.9%, p=.257). The mean age of participants was 23.2y and 69.2% were non-Hispanic white; participants did not differ from non-participants based on age (p=.232) or race/ethnicity (p=.796). Of the 325 participants, 307 (94.5%) completed the survey outcome of interest. A total of 202 (62.2%) participants expressed willingness to engage in a qualitative interview.

Conclusions: Young adult survivors are willing to engage in reproductive research, but recruiting a representative sample requires a multi-prong approach. Future research may benefit from engaging survivors in prospective cohorts to ease recruitment for long-term outcomes research.