

ST.JUDE-VIVA Survivorship

Webinar #5:

Psychosocial & Neurocognitive Late Effects of Childhood Cancer

12th March 2022 | 20:00-21:30 (UTC +8)

Program Name:	St. Jude-VIVA Survivorship #5
Event Date:	Saturday 12 th March 2022
Event Time:	8:00pm – 9:30pm (Singapore Time)

Programme Synopsis

Lecturer 1:

Neurocognitive Late Effects After Childhood Cancer (Dr Yin Ting Cheung)

Major advances in health care delivery have dramatically improved survival rates for children diagnosed with life-threatening diseases. Unfortunately, survivorship often comes at a cost of developing a myriad of treatment-related complications. In particular, survivors of childhood cancer are at increased risk for neurocognitive problems that can adversely impact their educational and vocational attainment. This presentation is focused on characterizing predictors of impaired brain function in survivors of childhood cancer. We will demonstrate how chemotherapy exposures and acute neurotoxicity during the active treatment are predictive of long-term brain function in survivors of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. As survivors age and advance into long-term survivorship, the impact of chronic health complications on neurocognitive outcomes will also be discussed. Lastly, we will consider culturally relevant and region-specific environmental risk factors on neurocognitive development in Asian cancer survivors. I will also share some enablers (and barriers) to starting a cognitive research program for survivors of childhood cancer in an Asian setting. The eventual goal of this work is to develop targeted strategies to improve functional outcomes in survivors of childhood cancer.

Lecturer 2:**Interventions for Neurocognitive Late Effects (Dr Kevin Krull)**

Long-term survivors of childhood cancer are at heightened risk for neurocognitive late effects due to both the direct and indirect effects of childhood cancer and cancer therapy. The direct effects of neurotoxic therapies impact brain regions associated with attention, memory and executive functions and require direct interventions to prevent and/or remediate these neurocognitive deficits. However, even cancer survivors who don't receive neurotoxic therapies are at elevated risk for neurocognitive problems, due to the chronic health conditions (e.g., cardiac, pulmonary, endocrine) that develop over longer periods of time. These health conditions have indirect effects on brain function, though are modifiable through healthy lifestyles and adherence to long-term follow-up guidelines. Together such approaches support healthy brain aging during adulthood. This presentation will discuss interventions to prevent and/or remediate direct effects of cancer and neurotoxic cancer therapy, as well as approaches to support healthy brain aging through minimizing impacts from indirect effects.

Lecturer 3:**Psychosocial Outcomes After Childhood Cancer (Dr Fiona Schulte)**

The aim of this presentation will be to provide an overview of the psychosocial difficulties experienced by survivors of childhood cancer. Using the Children's Oncology Group Long Term Follow-Up guidelines as a guide for this work, the presentation will review what is known about the psychosocial difficulties in survivors of childhood cancer including social adjustment, depression, and quality of life. In addition, it will discuss emerging evidence related to the experiences of pain, and fear of cancer recurrence and highlight future steps for this field of research.