



Program Name:	St. Jude-VIVA Survivorship #1
Event Date:	Friday 7 th Jan 2022
Event Time:	8:00pm – 9:30pm (Singapore Time)

Programme Synopsis

Lecturer 1:

Introduction to Late Effects (Dr Melissa Hudson)

The majority of children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer will become long-term survivors with many potential years of life ahead of them. This growing population is at increased risk for late medical and psychosocial complications (“late effects”) that can adversely affect the quality of their survival and predispose them to early mortality. Late effects account for a high prevalence of chronic health conditions among aging survivors of pediatric cancers and increase in prevalence with longer time elapsed from cancer diagnosis. Aspects of physical health that may be affected by cancer include growth and development, organ function, fertility and reproductive outcomes, and the risk of secondary carcinogenesis. Similarly, cancer may predispose to a variety of psychosocial sequelae that may negatively impact social competence by hindering educational achievement, vocational and employment opportunities, insurance access, and marriage and social relationships.

Most childhood cancer survivors will experience one or more adverse medical or psychosocial late effect(s) and multi-morbidity is common in this population. However, changes in pediatric cancer therapeutic strategies over time have decreased the prevalence of severe, disabling, life-threatening and fatal late effects of cancer. Despite this progress, childhood cancer survivors experience excess mortality compared to age- and sex-matched general population peers across the lifespan.

Early detection and initiation of preventive/ameliorative interventions provide the opportunity to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with cancer-related late effects. Given that many treatment-related sequelae may not become clinically apparent until the survivor attains maturity or begins to age, the ability of clinicians to anticipate late treatment effects is essential to provide timely interventions to prevent the development and progression of secondary disease and its adverse effects on quality of life. Risk-based survivor care that includes tailored screening, surveillance, and prevention based on the previous cancer, cancer therapy, genetic predispositions, lifestyle behaviors, and co-morbid health conditions is recommended for all survivors. Implementation of high-quality survivorship care must consider cancer, patient, provider, and health care system factors that influence the risk of late effects as well as factors that affect a survivor's ability to access that care. This presentation will review the spectrum and prevalence of late effects of childhood cancer, factors contributing to the risk of late effects, and the concept of risk-based survivorship care.

Lecturer 2:
Survivorship Care Planning (Dr Matthew Ehrhardt)

Improvements in childhood cancer treatments and supportive care have resulted in an emerging population of long-term survivors. Survivors represent a medically complex group, each varying with respect to prior treatments received, chronic health conditions already incurred, and risk for future adverse events. Because of the heterogeneous multimorbidity experienced by survivors, organized care planning is critical to ensure delivery of high-quality health care equipped to meet their medical needs. Several tools are available to achieve this goal.

The survivorship care plan, a treatment summary containing details regarding risk for adverse health conditions and specific long-term follow-up needs, is one important tool that should be provided to each patient in an effort to improve coordination of care and communication between specialty and primary care providers. A clinical practice model of care should be selected that aligns with local resources in an effort to maximize access to recommended care for each survivor. In addition, survivorship guidelines are available, in many cases regionally (e.g., the Children's Oncology Group Guidelines in the United States) and internationally (e.g., the International Guideline Harmonization Group guidelines), in order to inform providers regarding recommended follow-up care based on cancer diagnoses, treatment exposures, and comorbid conditions. Taken together, these tools, among others, can be utilized to optimize care for all childhood cancer survivors.