
Abstract

Siblings' experience of childhood cancers: A qualitative study

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Childhood cancer is one of the most serious chronic illnesses. Few studies have been undertaken about the subjective experiences of the siblings of patients with childhood cancer. This study generated a hypothetical model of the siblings' experience process related to the illness from the siblings' narratives, controlling for the siblings' developmental stage. Six adolescents who experienced siblings going through inpatient childhood cancer treatment during their childhood were interviewed. The interview data was analyzed using a grounded theory approach. After experiencing *Transition from Their Usual Life*, they were simultaneously engaged in *Creating a Life as a Patient Family* and *Adjusting the Distance between the Illness and Me*. The siblings' own development, changes in family members' perceptions and attitudes about the cancer, and the patient's treatment process influenced their progression through the experiences listed above. Future research is needed to examine how the patient role that parents and the survivor give to the survivor is related to the process of family communication and the siblings' experiences of loneliness and self-repression that are generated by the patient role.

Keywords: illness, sibling, experience process, narrative, qualitative research
