

Children of parents with cancer: How can parents help their child cope and what help is associated with good coping and psychological functioning in the child?

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Miscellaneous and site unspecified neoplasms malignant and unspecified
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON32229

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Children of parents with cancer

Condition

- Miscellaneous and site unspecified neoplasms malignant and unspecified

Synonym

cancer, malignancies

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Ikazia Ziekenhuis

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Niet van toepassing.

Intervention

Keyword: cancer, coping, parents, psychological

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The main study parameters (outcomes) in this study are the child*s coping strategies and its psychological functioning including anxiety, posttraumatic stress-symptoms and internalising problems.

Secondary outcome

The secondary study parameter (independent parameter) is how parents help their child cope with parental cancer. Other study parameters (mediators) are changes in family routines and role, temperament of the child, personality of the parents (type-D), family cohesion and relational problems between the parents.

Study description

Background summary

For children one of the most traumatic events is when their parents are diagnosed with a potentially fatal disease. The literature clearly shows that children of parents with cancer experience significant psychological stress, including posttraumatic stress symptoms and internalizing problems. Children are confronted with changes in the emotional atmosphere in their family, changes in daily routine, in the physical and emotional availability in their parents and have to live with the fear of separation from their parent. At the same time the child has limited possibilities to cope with this situation both intellectually and emotionally because of its developmental age. Parents with cancer are confronted with the threat of losing their life, the rigors of treatment and at the same time the care for their children. Parents face many

uncertainties as how to help their child in this situation and have a great need for guidance. Studies on how parents can help their child to cope with their illness are sparse. Therefore this study will focus on how parents can help their child in coping with cancer thereby enhancing their child's psychological well-being.

Study objective

The purpose of this study is to describe how parents try to help their child in coping with parental cancer. It will be investigated if parental help affects the coping strategy of children to deal with their parent's illness and subsequently their psychological functioning.

Study design

The design of the study is a prospective and retrospective cross-sectional within-subjects design.

Study burden and risks

The burden of the study involves time of the participant and talking about their experiences of a difficult situation. The adult participants, i.e. the parents, are being interviewed approximately one hour and a half about how they have helped their child to cope with parental cancer. After the interview both parents are requested to fill in five short questionnaires and two short rating scales. Because coping and psychological functioning in the child is most reliable measured in the child itself, also the child is approached to participate in the study. The interview of the child last less than one hour and afterwards, the child is asked to fill in five short questionnaires and one short rating scale. Parents and children are asked to relate about their experiences in coping with parental cancer in their own way. There is no pressure on participants if they do not wish to address a particular issue. Natural emotions associated with the illness and the period of treatment can emerge because of the study. The interviewers are trained how to deal with the emotions evolving from the study. In addition, professional aftercare can be provided by the Department of Clinical Psychology of the Ikazia Hospital if necessary. In addition, no interventions are involved in this study, since it is descriptive.

Talking about the period of parental illness can have also beneficial effects for negative emotions associated with the illness can be processed. In this type of research many participants spontaneously report positive effects from an interview because they can talk about their experiences in their own way. Consequently, participating in the study may have a psychological therapeutic effect for the parents as well as their child.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adolescents (12-15 years)
Adolescents (16-17 years)
Adults (18-64 years)
Children (2-11 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria are:

- being diagnosed with cancer in the past 5 years,
- having received curative treatment,
- being or have been under medical supervision in the Ikazia Hospital, and
- having a child below the age of 18 living at home (see page 15 of the protocol).

Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria are:

- still receiving medical treatment (except hormone therapy),
- receiving palliative treatment,
- being diagnosed with a brain tumor, and
- insufficient mastery of the Dutch language (see page 15 of the protocol).

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 01-09-2009

Enrollment: 90

Type: Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 12-01-2009

Application type: First submission

Review commission: TWOR: Toetsingscommissie Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Rotterdam e.o. (Rotterdam)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL23018.101.08