

The preliminary study of family resilience and its correlates among cancer parents

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Background

- A life-threatening disease not only affects these patients, but also causes an enormous psychological stress and impact to their **children who are not yet independent**.
- It is very important to **confront the stress resulted** from the disease for **family with cancer parents**.

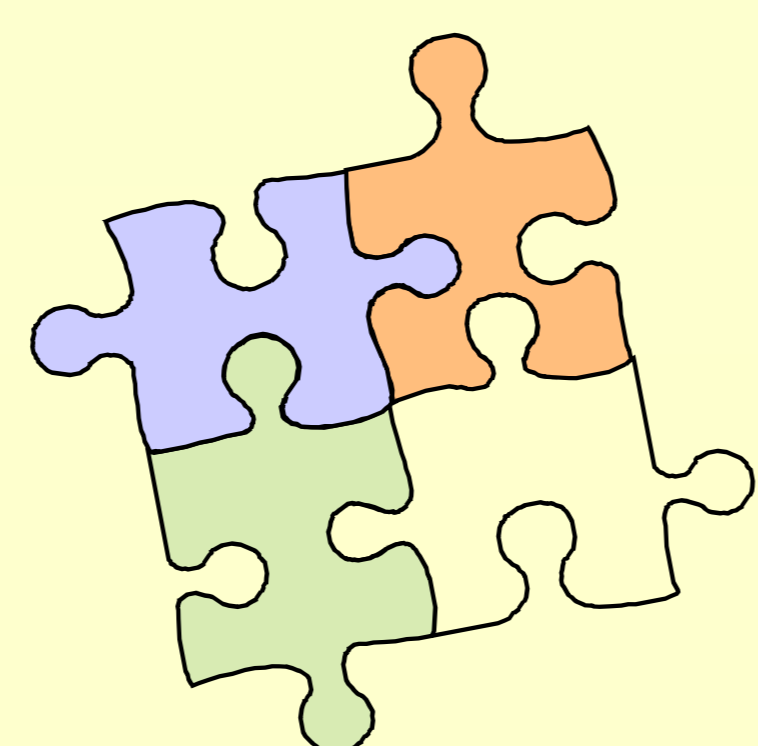
Purpose

- To explore the relationships of perceived stress, parent-adolescent communication, and family resilience among the parents with cancer based on **the family resilience framework** (Walsh, 2003).



Methodology

- These **IRB approvals** ensured that participants' human rights were considered and protected.
- **Cross-sectional** research design and **convenience sampling** were used.
- Participants were included by **convenience sampling**. Inclusion criteria were 1) diagnosed with cancer **over 3 months** in a family, and 2) being **parents with adolescent children** in the medical center in Taiwan.
- Data were collected by a questionnaire that consists of a demographic information datasheet and three scales: perceived stress scale, family resilience scale, and parent-adolescent communication scale.

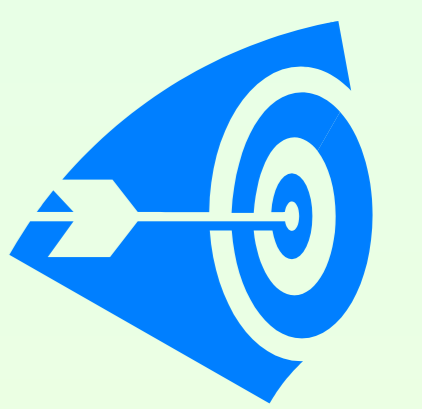


Result

- **eighty-four** cancer patients participated in this study. The average age of participants was **49.4±4.5 years old**. Female was the majority (85.7%), and most of them had **breast cancer** (79.8%).
- Family resilience was **negatively** correlated with **perceived stress** ($r = -0.36, p < 0.01$), and **positively** correlated with **parent-adolescent communication** ($r = 0.48, p < 0.01$).
- **Parent-adolescent communication** was the correlate of family resilience ($B = 0.45, p < 0.01$).
- **Perceived stress** was the correlate of family resilience ($B = -0.31, p < 0.01$).
- If cancer patients **perceived most support from their spouses**, their family resilience would be significantly higher than support from others except spouses ($B = 0.28, p < 0.01$).

Conclusion

- We identify that the **risk factor** of family resilience was **perceived stress** and **protector** was **parent-adolescent communication** for cancer patients.
- We also found that if cancer patients **perceived most support from their spouses**, their family resilience would be significantly higher than support from others except spouses.



Implication

- We suggested healthcare providers to **early detect** families at high risk for adaptation to construct **appropriate family-center care** and to evaluate the effect of this family intervention on nurturing family resilience in the future.
- According to the findings, we should not only focus on parent-adolescent communication, but also emphasis on the **relationship between cancer patients and their spouses**.

