Background

- A life-threatening disease not only affects these patients, but also causes 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 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.