

Experiences of Adolescent Patients with Osteosarcoma during the One Year of Treatment in Taiwan

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Learner Objectives

The learner will be able to

- (1) understand the experiences of adolescent patients with osteosarcoma during the one year of treatment in Taiwan.
- (2) describe the implications in pediatric oncology nursing.

Purpose of this presentation

The purpose of this presentation is to explore the experiences of Taiwanese adolescent patients with osteosarcoma during the one-year treatment period following diagnosis and to serve as a pilot study.

The target audience of the presentation

The learner will be able to

- (1) understand the experiences of adolescent patients with osteosarcoma during the one year of treatment in Taiwan.
- (2) describe the implications in pediatric oncology nursing.

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Background

Osteosarcoma (OS) typically occurs during puberty. Treatment for OS can be very challenging, especially during the first year of therapy. There is a paucity of empirical research exploring experiences of adolescent patients with OS (APOs). This lack of empirical evidence may result in APOs' needs for services not being appropriately reflected during their cancer trajectory.

Results

During the project, 9 categories were defined:

Disbelief 	Use of spirituality to misfortune 
Hope for recovery and maintaining body integrity 	Information acquisition 
Experience of physical impairment 	Preparation to return to school 
Experience of psychosocial distress 	Interdependence 
	Dedication to hope of recovery 

Keywords: Osteosarcoma, Qualitative research, Adolescents

Methods

This study used a qualitative research design with field notes that recorded the interviewer's observations and open-ended one-on-one in-depth interviews. Qualitative inductive content analysis was used to extract meaning from the data collected in this study. Twenty-four pairs of APOs who were between 11 and 20 years and who were treated with OS and their parents were recruited.

Conclusion

This is the first empirical qualitative study to explore the experiences of Taiwanese APOs during one-year of OS treatment. Nine experiential categories contribute to an initial understanding of how APOs experience their OS treatment challenges. They could be used to support intervention development in the pediatric oncology nursing fields.

Implications for Practice

An adolescent-friendly health education program and close surveillance on APOs' physical impairment is needed. Healthcare providers, school nurses, and school teachers need to actively notice APOs' physical limitations and assist monitoring the changes of physical functioning closely. Screening for psychosocial functioning with age-appropriate structured questionnaires for monitoring of psychosocial distress status symptoms and quality of life is useful for clinical practice uses.