



Siblings of Pediatric Cancer Patients: Support & Coping



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Background and Significance

- Pediatric cancer is the leading cause of death by disease after infancy among children in the US (Cancer in children and adolescents, 2023)
- Changing family dynamics, increased responsibilities, fear of loss, isolation, and neglect can lead siblings to feel overlooked and present with signs of inadequate coping, which can affect the sibling long-term

Purpose

The purpose of this evidence-based practice literature review is to determine the interventions that best support coping for siblings of pediatric cancer patients.

Methods

- A comprehensive literature review of CINAHL and PubMed
- Key words: (sibling) AND (pediatric cancer) AND (support) NOT (bereavement)
- Limitations: English, published within 10 years
- CINAHL results: 53, 3 met criteria
- PubMed results: 235, 2 met criteria

Interventions

Evidence Synthesis Intervention Table

Interventions	1 (Mooney-Doyle et al., 2021) (20)	2 (Wawrzynski et al., 2021) (57)	3 (Yang et. al., 2016) (10)	4 (Porteous et al., 2019)	5 (Gélinas-Gagné et al., 2024)
Psychosocial screening for sibling	X	X			
Group therapy	X		X	X	X
Summer camp programs	X	X			X
Educational/ Informational Counseling	X	X	X	X	X
Involvement in treatment			X	X	

Evaluation

Evidence Synthesis Outcomes Table

Outcomes	1 (Mooney-Doyle et al., 2021) (20)	2 (Wawrzynski et al., 2021) (57)	3 (Yang et. al., 2016) (10)	4 (Porteous et al., 2019)	5 (Gélinas-Gagné et al., 2024)
Depression	↓	↓	↓		
QOL	↑	↑			
Behavioral problems	↓	↓			
Anxiety	↓	↓	↓		↓
Personal growth		↑	↑	↑	
Adjustment to change			↑	↑	↑

Key: ↑ = increase ↓ = decrease ■ = positive change

Discussion

- Evidence-based recommendations based on the results of the literature review include:
 - Educational counseling
 - Group therapy
 - Camp programs
 - Involvement in care
 - Further screening for depression and anxiety
- The use of these interventions positively affected siblings' ability to cope:
 - Decreased depression
 - Increased QOL
 - Decreased behavioral problems
 - Decreased anxiety
 - Increased personal growth
 - Increased adjustment to change

Acknowledgements

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