

Background

- Cancer survivors face uncertainty about their future because of the possibility of cancer recurrence.
- Preliminary evidence suggests that prognostic uncertainty might confer benefits because it may give patients a chance to hope for a more favorable outcome.
- We evaluated levels of uncertainty and emotional well-being among cancer survivors.

Methods

Screening

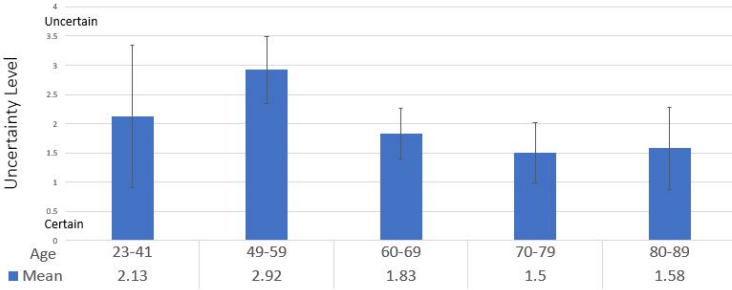
Adult cancer survivors identified through electronic medical records at NECS and HMC (n = 105)

Survey

Collected patients' sociodemographic information, cancer stage, and cancer status

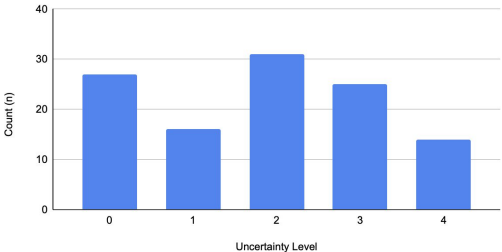
Completed a survey about attitudes regarding cancer recurrence, cancer-related distress, and coping strategies

Comparing patients uncertainty regarding if their cancer will be cured across age (Question C6)



Graph 1: Average uncertainty level of patient by age with confidence intervals

Reflection of Uncertainty Level Via Answer Distribution of Question C6



Graph 2: Results of Question C6

C6: I have no idea whether or not my cancer will be cured
0 = certain, 4 = uncertain

Results

Table 1: Cohort characteristics, cancer history, and uncertainty statistics for adult patients with cancer

Adult Cancer Patients, No. (% or SD)	
Cancer History	
Total Cancer Patients	105
Stage I	7 (7.1%)
Stage II	27 (27.3%)
Stage III	28 (28.3%)
Stage IV	37 (37.4%)
Demographics	
Male	88 (73.3%)
Female	32 (26.7%)
Mean Age	67.5 (15.2)
Uncertainty Statistics Question C6	
Total Responses	100
Association of younger age (≤ 67) and higher uncertainty	Wilcoxon p-value: 0.016 Mean difference: 0.7 Cohen's d: 0.528

Conclusion

- Evaluating important patient-reported outcomes including cancer survivors' attitudes towards cancer recurrence is feasible in a high-volume cancer clinic.
- Initial results suggest younger age is significantly associated with higher uncertainty of cancer recurrence.
- The study is ongoing and will serve as a platform for future investigations to support cancer survivors.