

Parenting Behaviors in Latino Childhood Cancer Survivors at Risk for Neurobehavioral Late Effects.

Investigators: Sunita Patel, Jessica Dennis, Elvia Barboa, & Smita Bhatia

Research has shown that children who have survived cancers involving the central nervous system or who have had intensive central nervous system therapy such as cranial radiation and/or intrathecal chemotherapy may experience academic, cognitive, and/or behavioral difficulties in the years following their treatment completion (i.e., neurobehavioral late effects). Research with children diagnosed with other chronic illnesses, as well as with cancer survivors, suggest that varied behavioral and educational interventions can improve the child's academic, cognitive, and academic functioning. There are several studies in progress that are evaluating such interventions in childhood cancer survivors, and they are all directed toward English speaking parents. We also have such an intervention study that is currently enrolling families with English speaking parents only, and designed with the preferences and belief systems of such individuals from the mainstream American culture. An important next step is to culturally adapt and tailor the intervention to meet the needs of those non-English speaking families who may represent a vulnerable population for adverse outcomes. The overall objective in this study is to identify aspects of parenting factors (knowledge, self-efficacy, and "pro-learning" behaviors) among Latino parents that may benefit from intervention for the purpose of improving their child's neurobehavioral outcomes following CNS involved cancer treatments. The relationship between these parenting factors, child-specific disease and individual variables, and sociocultural variables, such as predominant language, SES, and acculturation, will be examined as these should affect the content and delivery of interventions tailored for Latino families. We will also obtain data on the parents' interest, perceived barriers, and preferred format for parenting interventions designed for low acculturated, Spanish speaking parents of children with cancer. Based on the data gathered from this study, we will determine which elements of our existing parent intervention program ("PIP") should be modified for a disadvantaged Latino population, and develop a grant proposal to pilot the culturally adapted intervention