Resilience Profile for Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer and their Parents

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Abstract:

Adolescents and young adults with cancer (AYA) are an underserved population and few theory-based interventions exist to help them positively adjust to the cancer experience. Based on our prior work, we know that while some AYA adjust positively to the cancer experience, others do not. Positive adjustment to cancer is related to resilience. Resilience is the ability to achieve and sustain a sense of confidence/mastery, self-transcendence, and well-being in the midst of a life-threatening illness. Building on our collaborative work on the Resilience in Illness Model (RIM), we propose to develop a web application that will generate a computerized, tailored resilience profile for AYA based on his/her individual RIM assessment, as well as a separate tailored resilience profile for parents based on their RIM assessment. The specific aims of this study are to: (1) the web application and computer algorithms needed to generate two separate tailored resilience profiles (i.e., one for the AYA and one for the parent; (2) develop a tailored resilience profile prototype in collaboration with two advisory panels; and (3) determine the acceptability and usability of the tailored resilience profiles from the perspectives of AYA and parents.