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Coping With Pediatric Cancer: Conversational Methods Utilized by Parents and Children when Dealing with Pediatric Cancer

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Abstract

This thesis analyzed how parents communicate with their child regarding pediatric cancer treatments. When dealing with pediatric cancer, it is vital that parents and their child communicate about the illness in order to effectively cope with the cancer. About 200 participants participated in this study via an on-line survey. The key concepts focused on participants' indication about how they would react to a hypothetical scenarios involving parent/child communication about pediatric cancer treatments.

Scales

Knobloch's (2006) Realism Scale

Carroll, et al., (2009) Marriage
Horizon Scale

Carver's (1997) Brief COPE

Open-Ended Questions

Methods

Experimental Factorial Design
(2X3X2)

Twelve distinct scenarios were created for the factorial design, and appointment determined scenario distribution.

Uncertainty Management Theory

Inference:
Positive/Negative/Low
Illusion: Positive/None
Appraisal: Positive/Negative

Coping

Affect-Management:
Faith/Disengagement
Buffering:
Avoidance/Selective Ignoring

Hypotheses

H1: Negative uncertainty appraisals will affect the use of (a) affect management and (b) buffering strategies people would use when talking to children about cancer treatments.

H2: Positive uncertainty appraisals will affect the use of (a) affect-management and (b) buffering strategies people would use when talking to children about cancer treatments.

H3: The inference type (positive vs. negative) will affect the use of (a) affect management and (b) buffering strategies people would use when talking to children about cancer treatments

H4: The illusion type (negative vs. positive) will affect the use of (a) affect management and (b) buffering strategies when talking to children about cancer treatments.

H5: The interaction of appraisal, inference, and illusion will affect the use of (a) affect-management and (b) buffering when talking to children about cancer treatments.

Snoopyimage, <http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&docid=sb4TlhLcbWXckM&tbnid=3EoJwGi7VgrqOM:&ved=0CAQQjB0&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tumblr.com%2Ftagged%2Fcharles%2520shultz%3Fbefore%3D38&ei=a01KUZjmEoGUiQLEw4GABg&bvm=bv.44158598,d.cGE&psig=AFQjCNF5h4oD6FdFJ8VTZXy0ajpWwTO61A&ust=1363910371195148>