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## Scientific studies

### *Track 3 - Improving patient and family experiences*

*Cancer and well-being / physical activity /quality of life*

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Social consequences of childhood cancer late effects

**A Qualitative study of childhood cancer survivors' unique knowledge about late effects**

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**The abstract or summary reports has already been published or presented previously:** No

**Select your preferred type of presentation:** Oral presentation

**Background:** In Denmark, 200 children are diagnosed with cancer each year. The survival rate over the last 20 years has improved, and up to 80 percent are cured. As a result of this success, there is an increasing number of adults living with late effects of childhood cancer. 50 percent of childhood cancer survivors have documented physical late effects.

**Aim:** The purpose of this qualitative study is to generate new knowledge about how late effects influence the childhood cancer survivors' social life once treatment has ended. The study includes patients' perspectives and is based on the unique knowledge and experiences provided by young adult childhood cancer survivors. The study includes knowledge about both physical, mental and social late effects.

**Methods:** Empirically the study is grounded in 25 semi-structured qualitative interviews with childhood cancer survivors between the age of 18 and 39. Besides attending the interviews, participants were asked to provide personal details including their disease history.

**Results:** Different types of late effects may amplify and affect each other which may lead to new mental and social late effects with major consequences for daily life. Therefore, it is important to focus of the total sum of all the late effect complications to understand the overall daily consequence of life with late effects. Four aspects of childhood cancer survivors' social life can especially be negatively influenced by late effects: 1) Education, job and economic opportunities 2) Participation in social life 3) Establishment of own family 4) Relationship to siblings and parents.

**Conclusions:** The study explores three terms which are relevant to fully understand and uncover the consequences. These are: 1) Complications on each late effect 2) Current amount of consequences of all the different late effects 3) Current life situation.

The final conclusions imply that childhood cancer survivors' late effects can influence the quality of social life.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

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