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Late effects of treatment for childhood cancer

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During the past decades, significant advances have been made in the treatment of pediatric malignancies, with more than 80% of children being cured in most developed countries. Therapy responsible for this survival rate can also produce adverse long-term health-related outcomes, referred to as late effects. Late effects manifest months to years after completion of cancer treatment. It is estimated that 60% of pediatric cancer survivors develop at least one chronic condition and almost 30% experience serious or life-threatening complications during adulthood. The common late effects of childhood cancer encompass several broad domains including growth and development, organ function, reproductive capacity and health of offspring, secondary malignancies, and psychosocial sequelae. Late effects can be anticipated based on therapeutic interventions, but the magnitude of risk and the manifestations in an individual survivor are influenced by numerous factors which are tumor-related, treatment-related and host-related. Any organ system can potentially be affected. Late effects also contribute to an excess risk of premature death among long-term survivors. Relapsed primary cancer remains the most frequent cause of death, followed by cause-specific mortality from subsequent primary neoplasms, and cardiac and pulmonary toxicity. Childhood cancer survivorship is a national public health priority. Long-term follow-up care has taken place in a variety of settings: primary care clinics (pediatrics, internal medicine, family practice), oncology clinics (pediatric and adult), and specialized long-term follow-up clinics. To facilitate survivor and provider access to appropriate follow-up care, compendium of exposure- and risk-based health surveillance recommendations has been developed, including guidelines, health links and comprehensive reviews.

Biography

Roganovic Jelena is working as Full time Professor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine Rijeka, and the Head of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, Clinical Hospital Centre Rijeka. At the national level, she contributed to the improvement of cure rate of children with cancer, and is interacting with regulatory bodies and parent groups. She is a certified member of many national and international pediatric hematological and oncological societies. She is the author of more than 300 publications, abstracts and proceedings and several book chapters. She serves as a reviewer and Editorial Board Member for number of journals. She received several awards, including Patients' Choice Award Winner for 2011 and 2015, City of Rijeka Annual Award for outstanding contribution to the lives of children with cancer and the humanization of hospital care, and University of Rijeka Foundation Award for the contribution in Biomedical and Biotechnical Sciences.

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