

Level of Cancer Knowledge in Parents with Newly Diagnosed Pediatric Cancer Patients

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A cancer diagnosis can have devastating effects on a family especially when the newly diagnosed patient is a child. As pediatric cancer continues to persist in our society it is important to understand the knowledge surrounding pediatric cancer in the general public especially regarding the knowledge of the parents of the newly diagnosed pediatric cancer patient. To evaluate the level of cancer knowledge in parents of newly diagnosed pediatric cancer patients we at the Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego began a study with 184 parents of newly diagnosed patients. We gathered information about the parents through surveys to assess the effects of different factors on their level of knowledge surrounding the cancer diagnosis. Factors that we are evaluating are gender, race, ethnicity, social economics, education, literacy measure, and acculturation. Understanding what factors correlate and have the largest impact on the parent's knowledge of the diagnosis is important in giving oncologists that treat the pediatric cancer patient's insight into how to best care for families with different needs during the treatment process.