
CHILDHOOD TRAUMA, PAIN ANXIETY, AND FEAR OF CANCER RECURRENCE



FEAR OF CANCER RECURRENCE

- 69-75% of young adult cancer survivors experience fear of cancer recurrence, 20% of whom experience high fear

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AND CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

- Research indicates childhood trauma is associated with elevated distress due to cancer-related pain

PAIN AND FEAR OF CANCER RECURRENCE

- Cancer-related pain is associated with fear of cancer recurrence, yet researchers have not determined factors that may account for this association

RESEARCH FINDINGS

- 129 young adult cancer survivors responded to a survey
- Childhood trauma was associated with high pain anxiety
- Pain anxiety was, in turn, associated with high fear of cancer recurrence
- This suggests addressing pain anxiety among cancer survivors who have experienced childhood traumatic events may reduce fear of cancer recurrence

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