



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This is a repository copy of *Late effects of childhood cancer*..

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/130772/>

Version: Accepted Version

Article:

Friend, AJ orcid.org/0000-0001-9864-5605, Feltbower, RG, Newton, HL et al. (2 more authors) (2018) Late effects of childhood cancer. *The Lancet*, 391 (10132). p. 1772. ISSN 0140-6736

[https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(18\)30572-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(18)30572-5)

© 2018 Elsevier Ltd. Licensed under the Creative Commons

Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

Reuse

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.



eprints@whiterose.ac.uk
<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/>

Dear Professor Horton,

Bhakta et al report a large case-control study of survivors of childhood cancer from a single institution in North America [the St Jude Lifetime Cohort Study] (September 8, online)¹. The study defines the prevalence of many of the late effects of children's and young people's cancer. However, we were disappointed to note the omission of two key areas, mental health and female fertility, that limits the ability to describe the report as a comprehensive description of the late morbidity burden associated with survival from childhood cancer.

There is a growing body of evidence (interestingly much of it coming from St Jude's) showing psychiatric and psychological morbidity in survivors of children's and young people's cancer, including but not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder², depression³ and suicidal ideation⁴. Suicidal ideation has been linked to greater mortality from causes other than suicide in this vulnerable cohort, reminding us of the important interplay between physical and mental health.

Female fertility after cancer treatment remains a poorly understood area, but females treated for cancer under the age of 21 have been shown to be at increased risk of subfertility⁵, with the strongest effect seen in younger women.

Any efforts to quantify the total costs of cancer survivorship are to be applauded, however we feel that reports cannot be truly comprehensive if they exclude these important areas.

Amanda J Friend^{1,2}, Richard G Feltbower^{2,3}, Hannah L Newton^{1,4}, Helen M Picton⁴, Adam W Glaser^{1,3}

¹Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology, University of Leeds,

²Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Leeds

³Leeds Institute of Data Analytics, University of Leeds

⁴Division of Reproduction and Early Development, Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine, University of Leeds

References

1. Bhakta, N., Liu, Q., Ness, K.K., Baassiri, M., Eissa, H., Yeo, F., Chemaitilly, W., Ehrhardt, M.J., Bass, J., Bishop, M.W. and Shelton, K.. The cumulative burden of surviving childhood cancer: an initial report from the St Jude Lifetime Cohort Study (SJLIFE). *The Lancet*. 2017
2. Wenninger, K., Helmes, A., Bengel, J., Lauten, M., Völkel, S. & Niemeyer, C.M. Coping in long-term survivors of childhood cancer: Relations to psychological distress. *Psycho-oncology*, 2013 vol. 22, no. 4, pp. 854-861.
3. Hoffmeister, P.A., Storer, B.E., Syrjala, K.L. & Baker, K.S. Physician-diagnosed depression and suicides in pediatric hematopoietic cell transplant survivors with up to 40 years of follow-up Bone marrow transplantation, 2016 vol. 51, no. 1, pp. 153-156.
4. Brinkman, T.M., Zhang, N., Recklitis, C.J., Kimberg, C., Zeltzer, L.K., Muriel, A.C., Stovall, M., Srivastava, D.K., Sklar, C.A., Robison, L.L. & Krull, K.R. Suicide ideation and associated mortality in adult survivors of childhood cancer. *Cancer*, 2014 vol. 120, no. 2, pp. 271-277.
5. Barton, S.E., Najita, J.S., Ginsburg, E.S., Leisenring, W.M., Stovall, M., Weathers, R.E., Sklar, C.A., Robison, L.L. and Diller, L. Infertility, infertility treatment, and achievement of pregnancy in female

survivors of childhood cancer: a report from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study cohort. *The lancet oncology* 2013 14(9), pp.873-881.