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FIDELITY TO A RANDOMIZED INTERVENTION TO INCREASE MAMMOGRAPHY UPTAKE AMONG CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENT CANCER SURVIVORS

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Background and aims:

Female childhood and adolescent cancer survivors treated with chest radiotherapy have a high risk of breast cancer (BC) but low uptake of guideline-recommended BC screening. The EMPOWER study was a randomized clinical trial within the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Study (CCSS) testing an intervention which increased screening mammography uptake (33.1% vs. 17.6%, p=0.018). This analysis characterizes utilization of, and attitudes toward, the intervention and associations with receiving a mammogram.

Methods:

Participants (n=136 in the intervention arm; median age 35 years, range 25-49 years) were 5-year survivors of cancer diagnosed 1976-1999 before age 21 years and treated with chest radiation. The intervention had 2 components: mailed educational materials, including information on BC screening benefits/risks and a laminated card with guideline recommendations to provide to physicians, and telephone counseling delivering a brief motivational interview. The trial primary endpoint was receipt of a mammogram within 12 months of randomization. At study end, participants completed a survey about intervention experiences. Fisher's exact tests assessed associations.

Results:

Among participants in the intervention arm, ninety-six (71%) were diagnosed with a cancer in adolescence between the ages of 10-20 years old, two-thirds with Hodgkin lymphoma. Of the 129 survivors who completed a survey, 44 (34%) received a mammogram. One hundred (78%) reported receiving the mailed materials, 95 (74%) the telephone counseling, and 87 (67%) both. Reactions were primarily positive; 89% of respondents found the laminated cards helpful and 79% described the counseling as positive or activating. Approximately two-thirds endorsed little to no fear/anxiety from the mailed materials or of developing BC post-counseling. Women were more likely to obtain a mammogram if they received both intervention components compared to women receiving one or no components (45% vs. 24%, p=0.050), reported using the laminated card to discuss screening with physicians (72% vs. 51%, p=0.086), or found counseling motivational (61% vs. 30%, p=0.003).

Conclusions:

A two-part intervention aimed at increasing mammography uptake among high-risk survivors was well-received and elicited minimal fear/anxiety. Receiving intervention messaging in multiple forms and sharing it with a physician was associated with intervention efficacy.

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