Proposal No: 98-01
Topic: Late Mortality

Lead CCSS Investigator: Ann Mertens
Collaborators: Yasui, Smithson, Ruccione, Neglia, Potter, Nesbit, Robison

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CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVOR STUDY
Analysis Concept Proposal

Submitted: December 15, 1997

1. Title: Mortality Rates and Causes of Death in Survivors of Childhood and Adolescent Cancer

2. Working Group and Investigators: This proposed publication will be within the Epidemiology/Biostatistics Working Group. Proposed investigators (name/e-mail/fax) will include:

   Ann Mertens       mertens@epivax.epi.umn.edu       612-624-0315
   Yutaaka Yasui    yyasui@fhcrc.org              205-667-5977
   Joe Neglia       neglia@epivax.epi.umn.edu      612-626-2815
   John Whitton     jwhitton@fhcrc.org            205-667-5977
   John Potter       jpotter@fhcrc.org            205-667-5977
   Les Robison      robison@epivax.epi.umn.edu      612-626-4842

3. Background and Rationale: With current improvements in the treatment of children and adolescents for cancer, survival has increased dramatically, with an overall increase in the probability of five year survival of over 65% in 1986. Several studies have shown an excess in the mortality rates in survivors of childhood cancer, and it has been suggested that this excess risk depends on therapeutic modalities, and is higher in individuals who have received multi-modal therapies. Increased mortality rates are primarily due to recurrences of the primary diagnosis, but they may also be increased for other causes of death, when compared to the US population. By studying mortality rates by therapeutic modalities as well as clinical and demographic variables, we will be able to gain insights regarding 1) which therapeutic modalities are associated with higher mortality, 2) which patients require special attention in follow-up, and 3) what interventions may be considered to reduce excess mortality among childhood cancer survivors.

4. Specific Aims/Objectives/Research Hypotheses: This publication is designed to investigate the long-term effects of cancer and its associated therapies on mortality rates and on the specific cause of death. We have two objectives: (1) to describe mortality risk in a large cohort of childhood cancer survivors by survivors’ characteristics (clinical and demographic) and time, and (2) to compare cause-specific mortality rates with the US population and assess excess risk by survivors characteristics (clinical and demographic) and time.
Hypotheses:
1. Mortality risk from all causes of death will depend on diagnosis, age at
diagnosis, time since diagnosis, sex, and exposure to specific treatment
modalities. Specifically, the risk is high among survivors of HD, younger age at
diagnosis, shorter time since diagnosis, male, multi-modal therapies, higher
dose of radiation, and higher doses of chemotherapy drugs.

2. Survivors will have a significant excess risk of cause-specific mortality, relative
to the US population, associated with the type of childhood cancer and exposure
to specific treatment modalities.

2.a Recurrence of cancer will be the leading cause of death in survivors of childhood
cancer, and the risk will increase with HD, younger age at diagnosis, shorter
time since diagnosis, male, multi-modal therapies, higher dose of radiation, and
doses of chemotherapy drugs.

2.b Individuals who have a recurrence (especially within the first five years) will have
higher mortality rates.

2.c Risk of death due to causes other than recurrence will be higher in survivors
than in the general population. Specifically, risk of death from a second
neoplasm (ICD=140-206), infectious disease (ICD=001-139), diseases of
circulatory system (ICD9=390-459), accidents (ICD9=E800-949) and suicide
(ICD9=E950-959) will be higher among the survivors. This will be mediated by
treatment and cancer related psychosocial factors (smoking, educational
attainment).

5. Analysis Framework:

a. Outcome of interest: alive/dead status of each CCSS subject (date and cause of
death if died) as of December 31, 1996.

b. Subject population: all CCSS cases (whose vital status is known)

c. Explanatory variables: sex, age at diagnosis (see d.1), age at follow-up, time
since diagnosis, diagnosis type, race (see d.1), recurrence(see d.1), type of
treatment (see d.1), dose of radiation, doses of chemotherapy drugs, smoking
(see d.1), educational attainment (see d.1).

Note that effects of radiation or chemotherapy drugs may be modified by age at
diagnosis and/or sex.
d. Specific tables:

1) Characteristics of all CCSS cases by alive/dead status:
   Alive N= -- (90%)   Dead N= -- (10%)
   - sex
     male N= -- (87%)   male N= -- (13%)
     female N= -- (93%) female N= -- (7%)
   - age at dx (0, 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-2, 13-15, 16-18, 19-21)
   - mean age at follow-up/death (standard deviation)
   - mean time since diagnosis (standard deviation)
   - diagnosis type (8 type categories)
   - race (white, black, Hispanic, Am Indian, Asian, other)
   - smoking (current smoker: N.1 and N.1a)
   - educational attainment (0.1)
   - recurrence (none, <= 5 years from dx, > 5 years from dx)
   - type of treatment
     - chemotherapy only
     - radiation only
     - surgery only
     - chemotherapy+surgery
     - chemotherapy+radiation
     - radiation+chemotherapy
     - chemotherapy+radiation+surgery
   - dose of radiation (1-999, 1000-2499, 2500-3499, 3500-4499, >4500 cGy)
   - use of each chemotherapy drug (yes/no)
   - dose of each chemotherapy drug (the 28 major drugs)

2) Mortality rates and standardized mortality ratio (age-sex-calendar-period
standardized to the US population) by:
   - diagnosis type
   - sex
   - time since dx
   - smoking (current smoker: N.1 and N.1a)
   - educational attainment (0.1)
   - type of treatment
   - dose of radiation
   - dose of each chemotherapy drug (the 28 major drugs)
   - recurrence

3) Repeat 2) with cause-specific mortality rates, namely, mortality from a second
neoplasm (ICD=140-208), infectious disease (ICD=001-139), diseases of
circulatory system (ICD9=390-459), accidents (ICD9=E800-949) and suicide
(ICD9=E950-959).
6. **Special Consideration:** Causes of death will be determined from the death certificates by specific rules, to be established by Neglia and Mertens. The rules will categorize deaths into the following 3 groups:

- cancer recurrence
- treatment related complications during remission of primary diagnosis (include infectious disease (ICD=001-139) and diseases of circulatory system (ICD9=390-459))
- other causes
  - new cancer during remission of first cancer
  - accidents, unintentional injury (ICD9=E800-949)
  - suicide (ICD9=E950-959)
  - other causes

If any cause of death that is not specified above shows a high frequency, it will be investigated as a separate category.