DESIGNING A COMMUNITY-PARTNERED NEEDS NAVIGATION INTERVENTION FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

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BACKGROUND

- Adolescent and young adult (AYA: age 15-39 years) cancer survivors experience a high rate of financial toxicity, defined as the negative personal financial impact of healthcare costs.
- Financial toxicity is associated with unmet health-related social needs (HRSN; e.g., difficulty affording housing, food, transportation, insurance).

OBJECTIVE

- Addressing financial and social needs during active therapy may reduce long-term financial toxicity. Resources may exist in the community to address these unmet needs.
- The objective of this study is to determine the feasibility and preliminary impact of a needs navigation intervention (AYA-NAV) delivered to AYAs with cancer and who screen positive for financial toxicity or unmet HRSN.

PROJECT DESIGN

- The intervention was developed from AYA patient and caregiver interviews, and existing needs navigation models among older adults that included partnership with the Patient Advocate Foundation and Findhelp.org.
- Patients treated at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center are being recruited (study in progress).
- To determine eligibility for intervention, AYAs completed a baseline financial and HRSN assessment.
- Positive screens were defined as:
  - Comprehensive Score for Financial Toxicity (COST, AYA) score < 22 or
  - Personal Financial Wellness Scale (PFWS, caregiver) ≤ 4; or
  - Any food, housing, transportation, utility insecurity or uninsurance
- Over 75% of participating AYAs screened positive for financial toxicity or an HRSN, making them eligible to participate in a needs navigation intervention (AYA-NAV)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Percentage of Participants who Screened Positive for Financial Toxicity or an HRSN

CONCLUSIONS

- Many AYAs (age 15-39) with cancer experience financial toxicity
- Preliminary data supports that it is feasible to screen AYAs for financial toxicity and that they are interested in a needs navigation intervention to address their financial needs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Next steps include completion of this pilot study to inform the refinement and evaluation of this community-partnered intervention
- More research is needed to determine the feasibility and utility of providing needs navigation to community resources and the effect on reducing financial toxicity and health-related social needs

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