

TITLE: Higher reproductive concerns related to fertility counseling: A cross-sectional study of young adult male cancer survivors in the U.S.

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Cancer care providers; cancer survivors and their families/partners

ABSTRACT: Background: Reproductive concerns are common among young adult (YA) cancer survivors. Fertility counseling has been proposed as a possible intervention strategy, but the relationship between fertility counseling and reproductive concerns among YA male survivors has not been established. Purpose: This study examined the association between fertility counseling and reproductive concerns among YA male cancer survivors. Methods: One hundred and seventy YA male cancer survivors (age 18 to 35) across the U.S. completed a cross-sectional, online survey reporting demographics, receipt of fertility counseling, and reproductive concerns. Reproductive concerns were measured multidimensionally using the Reproductive Concerns after Cancer-Male scale. We used logistic regression to examine the association between fertility counseling and high reproductive concerns. Results: Those who received fertility counseling were more likely to have reported high concerns about their fertility potential, achieving pregnancy, their (potential) child's health, and disclosing infertility to a partner. Fertility counseling was not associated with concerns about personal health and acceptance of infertility. Conclusions: Fertility counseling alone does not adequately address the reproductive concerns experienced by YA male cancer survivors. Research is needed to determine the extent to which different types of reproductive concerns are discussed and identify strategies to alleviate these concerns for this population.

OBJECTIVE(S): Explain the association between fertility counseling and multiple dimensions of reproductive concerns among adolescent and young adult male cancer survivors.
