

MCC-Rady Padres Pedal the Cause Spring 2018



Development and Implementation of a Peer-Navigation Intervention to Improve Research Literacy in Pediatric Cancer Trials

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Scientific Abstract:

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of child death in the US. While survival has improved, due to participation in clinical trials, critical racial/ethnic disparities remain. Compared to non-Hispanic White (NHW) children, Hispanics have higher incidence of certain cancers and poorer survival rates. Although Hispanics will comprise 33% of the U.S. childhood population by 2060, their participation in research is critically low and, as we have shown, Hispanics are underrepresented in pediatric cancer research. As a result, outcomes data are obtained mostly from NHW. Low research literacy is a barrier to minority participation in clinical trials. Interventions to improve research literacy and clinical trial participation, particularly for Hispanics, are lacking. There is an urgent need to fill this knowledge gap, as tailored interventions can improve research literacy and minority participation in clinical trials. We propose to develop and implement “**COMPRENDO**” (ChildhOod Malignancy Peer REsearch NavigatiOn), a tailored peer- navigation intervention (PNI), using implementation science and compare the effectiveness of COMPRENDO vs. usual care in improving research literacy outcomes. Our hypothesis and rationale are that PNIs guided by implementation science, in which trained peers deliver culturally and linguistically concordant education to parents during informed consent, can address barriers to: a) adequate research literacy, and b) equitable clinical trial participation. By increasing minority participation in clinical trials, we can effectively translate discoveries and treatments, and, ultimately, improve equity of survival. This proposal will help to: a) inform clinical care, and b) design a multi-site randomized clinical trial in a larger sample of patients.

Lay Abstract:

Whereas Hispanic children will comprise 33% of the U.S. population by 2060 and have higher incidence of certain cancers, their participation in biomedical research is critically low and they have poorer survival rates than non- Hispanic Whites. Interventions to improve research literacy (capacity to understand and act on information to make decisions about research) and clinical trial participation, particularly for Hispanics, are lacking. The objective of this proposal is to improve research literacy in parents of children with cancer and increase clinical trial participation, particularly for Hispanics by developing and implementing a culturally and linguistically tailored peer- navigation intervention. By increasing minority participation in clinical trials, we can effectively translate discoveries and treatments equally, and, ultimately, improve equity of survival among diverse populations.