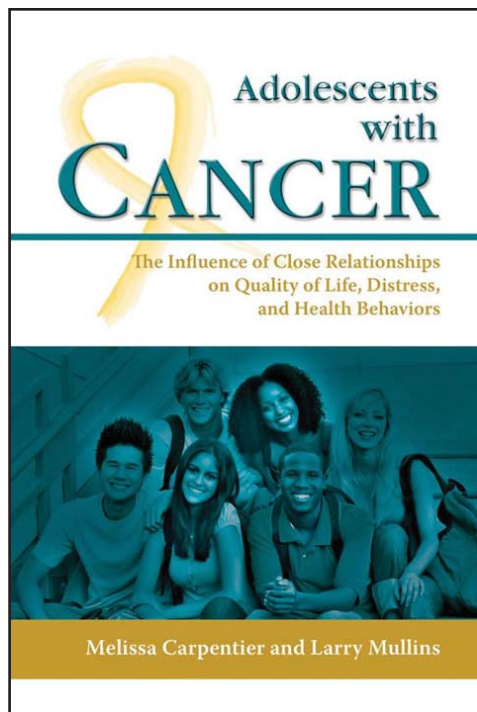


NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Adolescent Studies / Psychology / Public Health



Adolescents With Cancer

The Influence of Close Relationships
on Quality of Life, Distress,
and Health Behaviors

Melissa Carpentier
and Larry Mullins

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Description

A diagnosis of cancer in adolescence occurs at a critical time of social and interpersonal development. Adolescents are encountering rapid physical growth, hormonal changes, and a shift from dependence on parents with associated reliance upon close peer and dating relationships. These close relationships often involve increased levels of intimacy and sexuality, and it is in the context of these relationships that adolescents are developing important competencies for later relationships in their adult years.

Although a diagnosis of cancer in adolescence is likely to impact close relationships, research in this area is scarce. We know little about how close relationships may impact critical aspects of adolescents' lives, such as quality of life, psychological distress, and health behaviors. The current study was designed to address these gaps in the literature by providing an examination of how dimensions of close peer and dating relationships correspond with ratings of quality of life, psychological distress, and health-related behaviors among a sample of adolescents currently under treatment for cancer.



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NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Adolescents With Cancer

Description (continued)

In this first critical study of close peer and dating relationships among adolescents under active treatment for cancer, Drs. Carpentier and Mullins examine specific, discrete dimensions of close relationships (i.e., social support, negative interactions, dating anxiety, fear of intimacy) that are thought to relate to quality of life, psychological distress, and health-related behaviors (i.e., tobacco, alcohol, and drug use; sexual risk taking; nutrition/physical activity; overweight and dietary behaviors; and sun safety). Results of this study provide an understanding of the importance of close relationships to adolescents' adaptation to cancer and highlight the need for continued examination of discrete aspects of close relationships among this presumably vulnerable population.

Adolescents With Cancer is an important book for collections in adolescent studies, pediatric cancer, and psychology.

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About the Authors

Melissa Carpentier is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. She earned her PhD in clinical psychology and MS in psychology from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and her BA in psychology from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Carpentier's research interests include peer and romantic relationships, quality of life, and health behaviors of adolescent and young adult cancer patients and survivors.

Larry Mullins is professor of psychology at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He earned his PhD and MS in clinical psychology from the University of Missouri at Columbia and his BA in psychology from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Dr. Mullins' research is primarily focused on child and family adjustment to pediatric chronic illness (e.g., cancer, type 1 diabetes, asthma), with an emphasis on identifying factors that predict both resilience and adjustment difficulties.



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