

The Relationship between Resilient Qualities and Health Management in Video Testimonials of Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer

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Abstract : Adolescents and young adults (AYA) diagnosed with cancer are tasked with managing their health through treatment, a time when reliance on and independence from parents may change in unexpected ways. Resilience allows patients to cope and manage their own health through treatment, promoting motivation and a healthier lifestyle. The film acts as a source of reflection through the cancer journey, which may have an impact on how patients cope. The current research investigated relationships between resilient linguistic qualities of the video narratives and attitudes toward personal health management. N=24 patients diagnosed between ages 11-18 were recruited. First, participants provided demographic information, then made a video testimonial about their cancer experience. After filming, participants then completed a questionnaire on the perceived benefits for themselves and others for making the video. Videos were transcribed and analyzed for thematic content via codebook and for linguistic qualities, indicating resilience with the use of the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count Analysis Program (LIWC). Linear regressions were then calculated to explore relationships between resilient qualities, thematic content, and participants' perceptions of their medical team and willingness to care for themselves. Participants who spoke with greater narrator connectedness were more likely to change their view of their medical team ($\beta=.628$ $p=.034$). When a participant believed that providers were likely to view their video, they were marginally more likely to want to take better care of themselves ($\beta=.367$, $p=.078$). Participants who spoke in depth about their health reported higher intention to take better care of themselves ($\beta=.785$, $p=.033$). AYAs with cancer who showcased certain resilient qualities within their narrative were more likely to consider taking better care of themselves. Additionally, the more patients reflected on their health, the more they wanted to take better care of themselves. These relationships were stronger when a patient believed that a provider would watch their video. Study findings highlight the utility of film in uncovering aspects of resilience and coping that may lead to healthier behaviors in AYAs with cancer.

Keywords : adolescents, cancer, resilience, health management

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