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## Experiences and Post Traumatic Growth in siblings of cancer childhood survivors

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Siblings of children with cancer often experience the disease silently and alone. Despite acknowledging the negative impact of that experience, recent studies have included positive consequences and the possibility of post traumatic growth (PTG). Research on PTG in siblings is still scarce.

This study aimed to explore siblings' memories of their experience during the initial phase of the disease and their perception of the influence of that experience on their self-concept; relationship with others; meaning of life; and personal and professional choices.

A semi-structured in-depth interview according to PTG Model (Tedeschi & Calhoun 1995) was used. A total of 19 siblings (age 17y-32y; 62% female) participated.

Results: regarding memories, five themes emerged (related to their brother/sister; to their parents; to changes of family life; to the hospital and other sick children; and to him/herself during the initial phase of the disease). Siblings recognised the influence of some of their experiences on the PTG components. In what regards to self-perception, siblings spoke of autonomy; capacity for problems relativization; capacity to live responsibilities, and in parallel they mentioned introversion; emotional fragility; devaluation of self-emotional feelings and post traumatic symptoms. Most siblings mentioned to be more able to understand the suffering of others but more exigent in their social e emotional relations. Their learned perception of the ephemerality of life brought the need not to waste time and at the same time greater insecurity in relation to possible unexpected losses.

These results highlight the late effects of sibling experiences of children with cancer.