

TCS/16/21 - Understanding barriers to participation in cancer trials amongst teenagers and young adults: qualitative study

The Scottish Government recommends all teenagers and young adults (TYA) with cancer participate in clinical trials because of reported benefits, including access to new treatments, and specialist teams. Despite a recruitment target of 30%, only around 10% of TYA participate in cancer, compared to 60-70% of children, which may explain the slower decline in cancer deaths amongst TYA. Reasons for this low attendance are poorly understood, although it's likely that the TYA's own attitudes and beliefs are salient. Furthermore, TYA often defer to caregivers for decision-making around treatment options. Clinicians may also hamper recruitment through poor awareness of relevant trials and communication skills. This study will use qualitative interviews with TYA with cancer, their caregivers and health professionals to understand the reasons for reduced participation in cancer trials. This will inform development of interventions for future research, to increase participation of TYA in cancer trials.