

# Influence of Ethnicity and Parents' Eating Habits on Diet Quality in Pediatric Cancer Survivors



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**Hispanic** pediatric cancer survivors (PCS) had significantly **lower total vegetable** and **fatty acid HEI scores** (p=0.02) compared to non-Hispanic PCS. **Children's and parents' diet quality** were significantly correlated (r=0.56, p<0.0001 for overall HEI scores).

# Background

- Pediatric cancer survivors (PCS)
  have poor adherence to dietary
  guidelines and an increased risk of
  obesity
- There is a lack of research on family and cultural factors and children's diet quality to tailor nutrition interventions for PCS

#### Purpose

This study examined associations in diet quality (1) between Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic PCS and (2) between PCS and their parents.

#### Methods

#### SAMPLE

 65 PCS with overweight/obesity (off-treatment ≥ 6 months, mean age 10 years, 40% Hispanic)

## DATA COLLECTION

1-day 24-hour recall

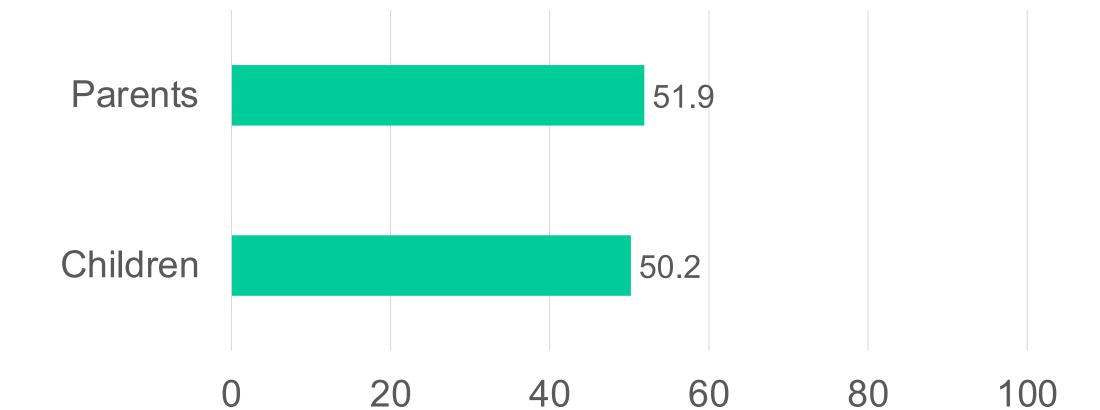


#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

- Diet quality assessed with Healthy Eating Index-2015 (HEI-2015)
- Bivariate analyses (t-tests and Pearson correlations) performed

### Results

# DIET QUALITY IN PCS AND THEIR PARENTS



# ETHNICITY AND CHILD DIET QUALITY

Ethnicity was not associated with overall HEI score, but Hispanic PCS had significantly **lower total vegetable and fatty acid scores** (p=0.02) compared to non-Hispanic PCS

#### PARENT AND CHILD DIET QUALITY

 Overall and component HEI scores were examined; significant findings are depicted below:

HEI Component Score	Child	Parent	r	p value
Overall HEI	50.2	51.9	0.56	<0.0001
Added sugar	6.6	7.5	0.45	0.005
Sodium	4.8	3.7	0.42	0.005
Greens and beans	1.5	2.4	0.33	0.02
Whole grains	2.0	1.9	0.39	0.007
Fatty acids	4.3	5.3	0.31	0.04

#### Conclusion

- Correlations between parent and child diet quality justifies using parents as change agents in nutrition interventions for PCS
- Cultural factors and parent role modeling should be considered in future interventions to promote healthy eating in this population