Enhancing Adolescent Assent in Pediatric Oncology Clinical Trials Through Tailored Creative Visuals

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Background
- Clinical trials are critical for progress in childhood cancer treatment (Pritchard-Jones et al., 2008)
- Complex terminology/concepts overwhelm adolescent patients, hindering recruitment
- Trial engagement relies on family-physician alliance when offered at diagnosis
- Additional research is needed to optimize introducing clinical trials during this worrying time
- Visual aids may help inform adolescents about trials

Goals
- Alleviate common fears and misconceptions about clinical trials through accessible education
- Clearly convey potential risks and benefits
- Simplify complex medical terminology
- Prioritize child comprehension of the entire clinical trial process
- Aim for accessibility through animations and relatable narratives

Outcomes
- Positive feedback from program mentors on potential for increased engagement and comprehension through visual interventions
- Importance of patient-centric design for educational materials to increase clinical trial participation
- Value of collaborative process incorporating feedback loops with target audience and experts

Future Directions for Research
- Integrating visuals in medical facilities and creating informational pamphlets for parents
- Conduct research studies exposing adolescents to these visuals/products and evaluate efficacy through surveys/measures on their comprehension and willingness to participate in clinical trials

Figure 1: Self-reported Understanding of Clinical Research
Figure 2: Participant Enrollment in NIH Research by Age Group, FY 2021

Simplified Breakdown of Assent Form
Cancer Pathology and Trial Procedures
Supportive Infographics and Stickers

Scan for full access to all our visuals!

Special thanks to Jaclyn Davis, Sunday Black, and the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation Cultural Ambassadors for their mentorship and support!