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**Doctoral Dissertation of St. Luke's International University
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小児がんの子どものためのコミュニケーションツールとしての
絵本の作成と評価：混合研究法

Creation and Evaluation of the Picture Book as a Communication Tool
for Children with Cancer: A Mixed Methods Study

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Abstract

Objectives: Despite health care professionals stating the need to tell children with cancer about their disease, there has been little mention of specific guidelines based on children's developmental capacity and feelings. Therefore, a picture book was created to improve communication with children about cancer, and to assess its feasibility.

Methods: The picture book was created following the framework developed by Jolly and Bolitho in 2011. A mixed methods approach, convergent design using a questionnaire and interview survey was performed to assess the picture book's feasibility. Healthcare professionals experienced in caring for children with cancer (N=14), healthy children (N=21), children with cancer (N=3), and their families (N=21) were included in this study. Quantitative data and qualitative data were analyzed separately, and meta-inference was performed, combining both data analyses using a joint display.

Results: More than 85% of the participants rated the picture book as feasible. Healthcare professionals and families revealed favorable reactions that the picture book is suitable as a tool for communicating cancer to children and supportive of communication with children about childhood cancer. Healthcare professionals also expected that the picture book would be accessible in practice. The picture book helped children and families understand childhood cancer. Children were interested in reading the picture book, and they thought it was useful for communication with the people around them about cancer. In contrast, unfavorable reactions to the picture book, including concerns about the contexts and expressions.

Conclusion: In this study, the picture book was created to improve communication with children about cancer at the time of diagnosis. The picture book was acceptable and feasible for healthcare professionals, healthy children, children with cancer, and their families. Further research is needed to evaluate the effects of using the picture book, as well as the user's experience.