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the study of media processes and effects is one of the most central to the discipline of communication and encompasses a vast array of theoretical perspectives
methodological tools and applications to important social contexts in light of this importance as well as the rapid changes in the media environment that have
occurred during the past 20 years this handbook explores where media effects research has been over the past several decades and equally important

contemplates where it should go in the years ahead coverage part i offers an overview of the field and conceptualizations of media effects along with a range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies used in the study of media effects part ii focuses on prominent theoretical approaches to the study of media effects from a more societal perspective tracing their historical contexts theoretical developments criticisms and controversies and the impact of the new media environment on current and future research part iii emphasizes the various factors that influence the critical functions of message selection and processing central to a host of mass media application contexts part iv reflects a dominant trend in the media effects literature that of persuasion and learning and traces related theoretical perspectives through the various contexts in which media may have such effects part v explores the contexts and audiences that have been traditional foci of media effects research such as children violence body image and race addressing the theories most applicable to those contexts part vi highlights a concern central and unique to the communication discipline message medium and how it influences effects ranging from what messages are attended to how we spend our time and even how we think

given the potentially traumatic and stressful nature of having childhood cancer results investigating the level of adjustment among children and adolescents with cancer have been quite surprising demonstrating levels of adjustment similar to the adaptation of children adolescents from the general population due to these findings studies in pediatric psychology have sought to identify the specific risk and resistance factors that may protect children and adolescents from adjustment problems the current study is the first empirical investigation to examine the combined impact of perceived stress and perceived social support on adjustment hypotheses for the present study were as follows 1 children and adolescents in the present study would demonstrate levels of adjustment similar to instrument norms 2 there would be significant differences between reports of adjustment from children adolescents and their parents 3 significant direct effects would be demonstrated between perceived stress and adjustment 4 significant direct effects would be demonstrated between perceived social support and adjustment and 5 there would be empirical support for mediating but not moderating effects of perceived social support in the relationship between perceived stress and adjustment subjects for the current study were 221 children and adolescents with cancer from children s hospital san diego children s hospital los angeles and children s hospital long beach children and adolescents in this study demonstrated levels of adjustment equal to or better than instrument norms and child but not adolescent reports of their adjustment demonstrated nonsignificant correlations with the reports of adjustment from their parents in addition although no mediating effects were demonstrated for perceived social support statistically and clinically significant direct effects were found for both perceived stress and perceived social support results from the present study may serve to guide future research investigating the risk and protective factors of adjustment in pediatric cancer in addition these findings may suggest effective interventions designed to reduce perceived stress i e relaxation and guided imagery and increase perceived social support i e social skills training and school reintegration and have implications for studying resiliency in children and adolescents facing profound

adversity

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