Vander Haegen, Marie1 (PhD) & Etienne, Anne-Marie1 (PhD). (2018). Intolerance of uncertainty as a vulnerability factor for parents of a childhood cancer survivors

1 : Université de Liège (Belgium)

Department of Psychology

Unit of Health Psychology

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**Abstract**

**Purpose:** Increasing survival rates in childhood cancer have yielded a growing population of parents of childhood cancer survivors (CCs). This research aimed to investigate psychological adjustment related to the vulnerability factor of intolerance of uncertainty among parents of CCs. **Methods:** In a 3-month follow-up study, we assessed the intolerance of uncertainty and its maintaining factors among 61 parents of CCs. **Results:** Noticeable intolerance of uncertainty rates were found. At both assessments, results showed that this factor was central in the development of anxiety, excessive worries, poor problem orientation, rumination, cognitive avoidance and positive beliefs about worry. Repeated measures (ANOVA) revealed a stability of intolerance of uncertainty over time. **Conclusions:** Parents who are intolerant of uncertainty are at risk to display dysfunctional behaviours over time. Sensitizing health care professionals to the identification of this factor and its associated difficulties is essential for the implementation of efficient intervention strategies.