

Use of multimedia in patient and caregiver education for cancer pain management: a literature review

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Introduction

Pain is a prevalent symptom faced by many cancer patients at different stages of the disease. Studies have shown patient and caregiver education addressing the proper use of pain management is associated with lower perceived pain intensity. There is currently limited research summarizing primary studies on the benefits and drawbacks of multimedia interventions for patient and caregiver education on cancer pain management.

Objectives

To review primary studies in the scientific literature comparing in-person or paper-based patient and caregiver education versus newer, multimedia approaches on cancer pain management.

Methods

A literature search was conducted on Ovid Medline, Embase, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials to identify experimental, quasi-experimental and cohort (retrospective or prospective) studies evaluating multimedia-based patient and caregiver education interventions. Resulting studies were examined and analyzed.

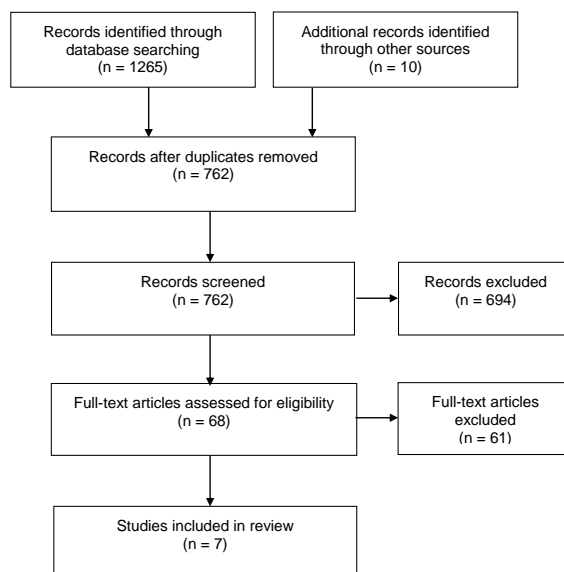
Results

Of the sixty-eight full-text papers assessed, seven were deemed relevant. Five were experimental studies (4 RCTs and 1 quasi-experimental) and two were observational studies (1-7). Moderate experimental and observational evidence favouring multimedia use in pain management education for patients/caregivers with control was found.

Conclusions

The literature shows limited but convincing evidence suggesting a positive effect on pain-related outcomes with the use of multimedia-based patient and caregiver education.

Research Process Flow Diagram



References

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