

BODY IMAGE, SEXUALITY, AND SEXUAL FUNCTION IN WOMEN WITH CERVICAL AND UTERINE CANCER: A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE

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INTRODUCTION

- 63,000 women are diagnosed annually in the US with cervical or uterine cancer.
- Multimodal treatments have significant adverse effects on women including changes in body image, sexuality, and sexual functioning.
- Few studies address these issues

OBJECTIVE

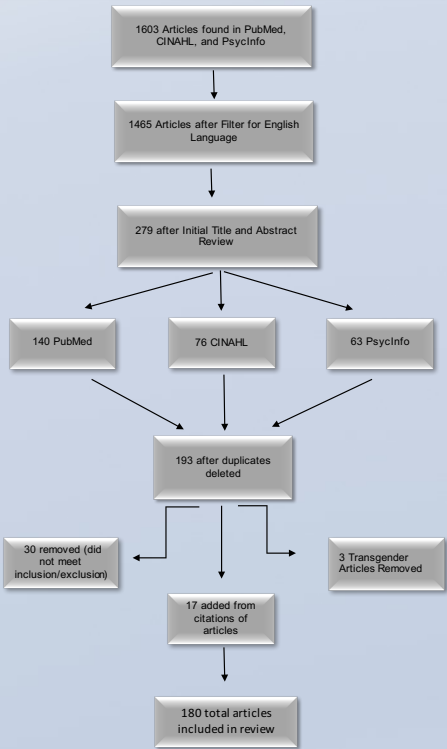
- To describe and appraise the state of the science in regard to body image, sexuality, and sexual function in women with cervical and uterine cancer

METHODS

- Systematic review of literature using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.
- 3 different databases were searched:
 - PubMed, CINAHL, & PsycInfo
- Predetermined subject headings and keywords were used and exploded
- Inclusion Criteria: Cervical or Uterine cancer, mention of sexuality, sexual function or body image, English
- Exclusion Criteria: men, non-gynecologic cancer.



Photo from cancerbox.org



RESULTS

- Focus of analysis was research articles
- Majority of studies were qualitative or quantitative descriptive studies; some included correlations among variables and/or predictors of sexual functioning
- Most studies addressed only 1-2 of the 3 concepts, rarely all 3 of them; sexual functioning was most common, then sexuality; few on body image
- Common disciplines included nursing, medicine, and psychology
- Research conducted primarily in the U.S. and Europe
- Very few intervention studies; sexual functioning most common outcome
- Very few studies used conceptual frameworks
- The concepts of sexuality and sexual functioning were used interchangeably

CONCLUSIONS

- Further descriptive and intervention research is needed
- Clarification of the terms sexuality and sexual functioning is warranted
- More focus on sexuality and body image should occur
- Conceptually driven research should be expanded

*References available upon request; Contact: wilsoncm6@vcu.edu