

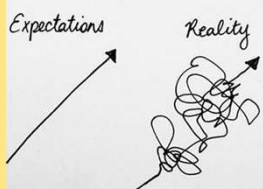
DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF A CANCER SURVIVORSHIP PROGRAM

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RECOVERY



INTRODUCTION

Cancer survivors experience treatment-related long-term and late effects (e.g., physical and psychosocial symptoms), affecting their health-related quality of life. Survivorship care is currently not adequately organized against these challenges and more understanding is needed to develop optimal survivorship care.

AIM

The aim of this project was to improve survivorship care by focusing on health care professionals across 10 existing oncology groups at Ghent University Hospital.

METHOD

A cancer survivorship care program was developed and implemented during 2020-2023 using action research. The cancer survivorship program was developed based on (1) a literature study, (2) identification and observations of current care-processes, (3) consensus meetings with the 10 involved oncology groups and (4) focus groups with health care providers.

Supportive tools were developed to facilitate holistic and supportive care for cancer patients who are in remission. Semi-structured interviews were used to evaluate the cancer survivorship program.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Implementation of the survivorship care program showed the absence of a one-size-fits-all-model regarding the delivery of survivorship care across 10 different oncology groups. Action based research was considered a feasible method to develop and implement a tailored program for each group (how - who - when - ...).

Survivorship care should be considered as an essential component of the cancer trajectory. All team members have the responsibility to embed the developed resources in their daily practice to offer a shared survivorship care.

More info: www.uzgent.be/zorg-na-kanker

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RESULTS

- 80 health care professionals were included.
- 4 main supportive tools were developed, showed beside in blue.
- The implemented program is slightly different in every oncology group.

Preliminary results showed that:

- There were positive experiences of health care professionals on individual and multidisciplinary level.
- Health care providers felt more competent to deliver care which suits the needs of patients.
- Organizational issues and lack of time were common reported barriers.

