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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the proliferation of social media platforms has transformed how individuals interact, share experiences, and seek support, especially among those dealing with chronic illnesses such as cancer. This study seeks to better understand the psychological, emotional, and social effects of social media engagement for those undergoing cancer treatment. The analysis focuses on how these interactions influence patients' coping strategies, sense of community, and overall well-being, providing valuable insights for healthcare providers, patients, and caregivers.

This meta-analysis aims to synthesize qualitative studies examining the impact of social media interactions on oncology patients during active treatment and followup.

METHODOLOGY

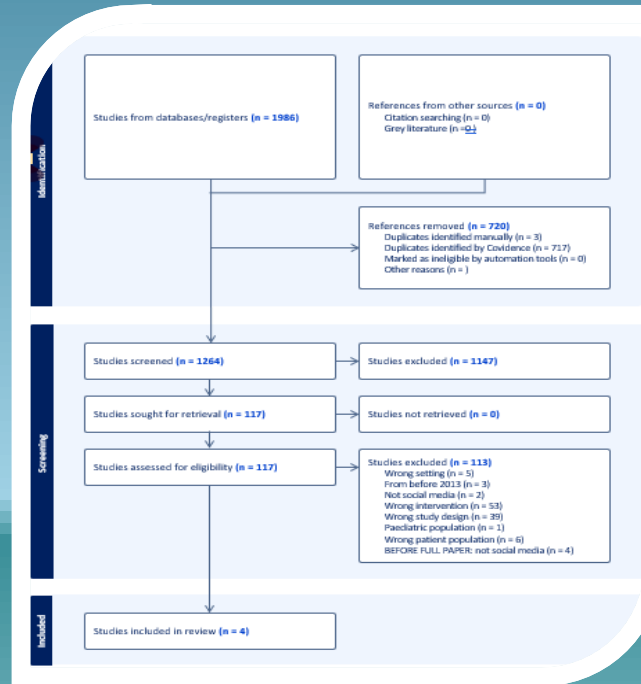
MEDLINE (Ovid), PubMed, PsycINFO, Scopus, Embase, Web of Science. 10 years, English language. Oncology/hematology patients >18 years. Active oncology treatment, follow up information seeking, chatting, exchanging (chemo, radio or immunotherapy) home based or inpatient, social based interventions. Social media ; twitter, facebook, blog, chat, email, websites, mobile phones & computers/laptops/tablets, mobile apps. EXCLUDED ALL TELEMONITORING studies.

RESULTS

4 qualitative studies.; 3 - breast cancer patients participants, 1 - AYA patients as participants .
Intervention; online support group through Internet Health Forums, social support exchanges through Facebook and some cancer-specific social media (eg, Caring Bridge)".

CONCLUSION

The meta-analysis reveals that social media interactions can significantly impact the well-being of oncology patients. Positive effects include enhanced emotional support, improved coping mechanisms, and a stronger sense of community, which contribute to better mental health outcomes. However, the analysis also highlights potential challenges, such as misinformation and negative social comparisons, which can adversely affect patients.



Participants appreciated the opportunity to socialize with fellows facing cancer, forming connections beyond their immediate circles, and validating their emotional and mental health experiences without limitations of time and location within a safe environment.

Con's - taxing, amplifying privacy concerns when dealing with the stigma associated with cancer. These findings stress the need for tailored interventions to maximize the benefits of social media while mitigating the risks. Healthcare professionals should consider integrating social media strategies into patient care plans to foster supportive online communities that enhance the overall quality of life for oncology patients.