



Care experiences and well-being of Asian immigrants with cancer living in western countries-- A systematic review of international evidence

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Review questions

Among Asian immigrant patients with cancer who live in western countries:

1. What are their unmet needs?
2. What is their quality of life?
3. What are their experiences of health care?
4. What are the facilitators or barriers of accessing / using healthcare services in the host country?

Introduction

Asian immigrants affected by cancer are a vulnerable population, often experiencing health disparities because of cultural and language barriers (Lockhart et al., 2020).

This systematic review considered diverse primary research evidence to evaluate the quality of life, healthcare needs, and experiences of care for Asian immigrants with cancer who live in western countries.

The goal is to identify what enhancements to supportive care services may be required for this population group.

Methods

- PRISMA Statement guidelines
- Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guidance for mixed methods systematic reviews using a convergent-integrated approach
- MEDLINE, EMBASE and CINAHL databases
- Quality Assessment for Diverse Studies (QuADS) tool to evaluate methodological quality
- Narrative synthesis

Results

- 32 studies were included: 19 qualitative, 11 quantitative, 2 mixed-methods.
- Research evidence was of *moderate-to-good* quality.
- Asian immigrant cancer survivors have significantly *lower* levels of quality of life than western-born Caucasians.
- Psychological burden, socioeconomic factors and health literacy *affect* quality of life.
- Higher educational level and receipt sufficient social support *enhance* the care experience.

Barriers towards good care experience

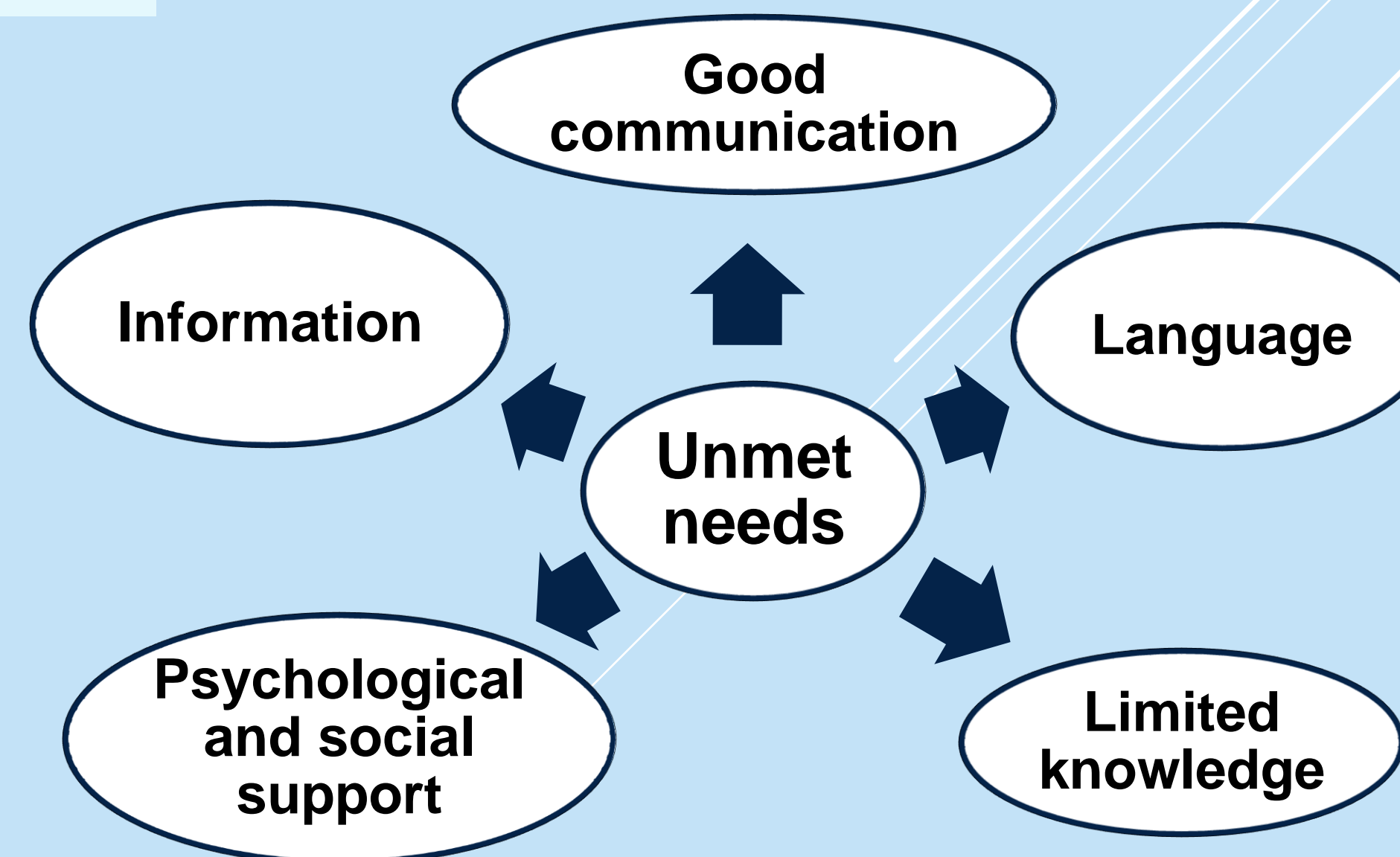
Inadequate English level

Insufficient information

Physician-patient relationship

Feeling "Burden" to family

Cancer stigma



Conclusions

- Information needs are the most frequently reported unmet needs among Asian immigrants.
- Culture-appropriated care plays an important role in how immigrants experience care.
- Good communication is the most important factor toward quality of life and care experience.
- Cancer-related stigma is most common within the Asian community and requires appropriate attention.