#### AUTHORS

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## (Introduction

- Many cancer survivors experience cognitive impairments called Cancer-Related Cognitive Impiarments (CRCI) [1]
- Key domain of unment needs; impacts quality of life and daily functioning
- there are no purpose-built unneeds assessment tool for CRCI [2]
- Requires an understanding of CRCI-specifc challenges and unment needs

## Results

The thematic analysis resulted in five overarching themes, each with two subthemes:

- (1) Executing Regular Activities
  - Difficulty in Daily Tasks
  - Difficulty Engaging in Valued Activities
- (2) Relational Difficulties
  - Difficulty Parenting
  - Difficulty in Intimate Relationships

## • (3) Occupational Functioning

- Difficulty Returning to Work
- Decreased Work Capacity
- (4) Psychological Distress
  - Self Confidence
  - Frustration and Distress
- (5) Social Functioning
  - Difficulty in Conversation
  - Social Avoidance

## Additional *Informational Needs* domain.

Travel expenses were partially covered by the Fravel Áward sponsored by the open-access ournal Current Oncology oublished by MDPI.

Ch Current Oncology

# "I CAN'T COPE WITH WHAT I WAS DOING BEFORE": CHALLENGES AND NEEDS RELATED TO PERSISTENT CANCER-RELATED COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

## Aim

Explore the perspectives of cancer survivors and health professionals in order to reveal what challenges and associated needs exist for cancer survivors with persistent CRCI relating to their cognitive difficulties

## **Difficulty in Conversation**

I can be having a conversation and then I can't remember...the words have gone (Cancer survivor)

### **Difficulty Parenting**

It can be really difficult to keep up with the demands of being a parent (Health professional)

## Relational Difficulties

It definitely puts strain on their household relationships, not just with their partners, but with their kids as well (General Practitioner)

#### **Difficulty in Intimate** Relationships

I think my husband carries a lot of the burden of it (Cancer survivor)

### **Difficulty in Returning** to Work

I have a number of patients who say they really don't feel that they can attend work because they don't feel that they have the ability to concentrate or focus at the level that's required...it's quite a high percentage (Health professional)



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Supported by; The Mazda Foundation 💓 MASCC Cognition Fellowship MASCC



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HOSPITAL Participants Methodology and Analytical Approach **Health Professionals:** • An in-depth qualitative design • N = 19; 13 different disciplines; varius levels of experience; various settings; 2 • Constructivist approach using semi-structured interviews • Reflexive Thermatic Analysis [3] countries; M Age 42.21 (10.53); 89% female **Cancer Survivors;** • N = 32; no current evidence of disease; no treatment M= 5.5 years; 7 cancer types; 4 counties; various treatments; M Age 56.03 (10.02); 78% female. **Difficulty in Daily Tasks** Social Avoidance I will try and avoid any social There was some issues around contact (Cancer survivor) confidence in driving, just whether 1 was actually alert enough to drive (Cancer survivor)

## Social Functioning

I isolated myself as much as possible (Cancer survivor)

## **Executing Regular Activities**

They're not able to remember what the doctors have said or remember instructions about specific things they've been told (Health professional)

#### Difficulty Engaging in Valued Activities

I was an avid reader, I would r a book a week. I don't think I h read a book in a year and a hal (Cancer survivor)

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS **RESULTING FROM** CANCER-RELATED COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

### Self-Confidence

They lose confidence in their abilities...like they are a different person to what they were before cancer treatment (Health professional)

## Psychological Distress

I just hear distress from people. Really, really distressed (Health professional)

#### **Frustration and Distress** Tolerance

Yeah, things that never used to bother me, bother me now (Cana survivor)

## Occupational Functioning

If my boss gives me something to do, Í'll just got, Oh my God, how I am going to do this? I'm going to look like an idiot if I ask a question (Cancer survivor)

#### Decreased Work Capacity

I actively avoid anything new or different, because I just think I couldn't meet the challenge or having to learn that...I'd find it too hard (Cancer survivor)

#### AFFILIATIONS

|                  | Conclusion  |
|------------------|---|
| ead<br>ave<br>lf | <ul> <li>CRCI was found to directly produce a range of challenges that negatively, and persistently, impact cancer survivors' quality of life</li> <li>There were a range of needs associated with these challenges.</li> <li>This research can be used to inform treatment and supportive care priority areas directly relating to CRCI.</li> <li>This research will inform the development of a future purpose-built needs assessment tool for CRCI</li> </ul>  |
|                  | Publication   |
|                  | <b>I</b>  |
|                  | References  |
| cer              | <ul> <li>[1] Mayo, S. J. et al.(2021). Cancer-related cognitive impairment in patients with non-central nervous system malignancies: an overview for oncology providers from the MASCC Neurological Complications Study Group. Supportive Care in Cancer, 29, 2821-2840.</li> <li>[2] Haywood, D., et al (2023). Oncology healthcare professionals' perceptions and experiences of chemobrain'in cancer survivors and persons undergoing cancer treatment. General hospital psychiatry, 84, 271-272.</li> <li>[3] Braun, V., &amp; Clarke, V. (2019). Reflecting on reflexive thematic analysis. Oualitative research in sport. exercise and health. 11(4), 589-597.</li> </ul> |