

# ASSESSING THE COMPREHENSIVENESS OF GUIDELINES IN ADDRESSING BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS SUPPORTIVE CARE NEEDS AND DOMAINS OF QUALITY OF SURVIVORSHIP CARE



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## INTRODUCTION

Survivors of breast cancer (BC) may experience a range of physical, psychosocial and practical supportive care needs. In response, domains of cancer survivorship care have been outlined.

**Purpose: This narrative review aimed to identify the comprehensiveness of existing survivorship and early BC guidelines in addressing supportive care needs of BC survivors and the domains of care.**

## METHODS

- PubMed and Google were searched to identify survivorship and early BC guidelines in the English language published in the last 20 years or available on the websites of international, national and regional cancer organizations
- Guidelines were assessed against the **ten supportive care needs** (Khajoei 2023)<sup>1</sup> and **five quality domains** (Nekhlyudov 2019)<sup>2</sup>

## RESULTS

- Search results: 18 guidelines from one international (ESMO), five national (ASCO/ACS, NCCN, Cancer Australia, NICE, Canadian Family Physician) and two regional (Cancer Care Ontario, BCCA) cancer organizations (**Table 1**)
- The ESO-ESMO Fifth International Consensus Guidelines for Breast Cancer in Young Women (BCY5) was the only guideline that addressed all ten dimensions of BC survivor supportive care needs
- All cancer organizations addressed physical and daily living needs, psychosocial/emotional needs, health system and information needs, and patient-clinician communications needs
- Limitations: Available guidelines were only focused on high-income countries.

## REFERENCES

- Khajoei, R., Ilkhani, M., Azadeh, P., Zohari Anboohi, S. & Heshmati Nabavi, F. Breast cancer survivors—supportive care needs: systematic review. *BMJ Support Palliat Care* **13**, 143–153 (2023).
- Nekhlyudov L, Mollica MA, Jacobsen PB, Mayer DK, Shulman LN, Geiger AM. Developing a Quality of Cancer Survivorship Care Framework: Implications for Clinical Care, Research, and Policy. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2019 Nov 1;111(11):1120–1130. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djz089. Erratum in: *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2021 Feb 1;113(2):217. PMID: 31095326; PMCID: PMC6855988.

## MAIN POINTS/CONCLUSION

- Least addressed supportive care need were spiritual/existential needs (3/8, 38%) and social needs (4/8, 50%) (Table 2)**
- All cancer organizations addressed prevention/surveillance of new cancers, physical/psychosocial effects of treatments.**
- Least addressed quality domain was surveillance and management of chronic diseases (Table 3)**
- Existing guidelines do not comprehensively consider all supportive care needs of BC survivors, and many lack recommendations to manage concomitant chronic illnesses**

**Table 1. Breast Cancer and Survivorship Guidelines**

Guidelines	Publication year reviewed
ACSI/ASCO	
American Cancer Society/American Society of Clinical Oncology Breast Cancer Survivorship Care Guideline	2016
American Cancer Society Nutrition and Physical Activity Guidelines for Cancer Survivors	2022
Screening, Assessment, and Management of Fatigue in Adult Survivors of Cancer: An American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Adaptation	2014
Prevention and Management of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy in Survivors of Adult Cancers: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline Summary	2020
Prevention and Monitoring of Cardiac Dysfunction in Survivors of Adult Cancers: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline	2016
NCCN	
National Comprehensive Cancer Network Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Survivorship	2023
NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology Breast Cancer	2023
Cancer Australia	
Recommendations for follow up of women with early breast cancer	2010
Recommendation for the identification and management of FOR (fear of recurrence) in adult cancer survivors	2014
ESMO	
ESO-ESMO Fifth International Consensus Guidelines for Breast Cancer in Young Women (BCY5)	2022
Early Breast Cancer: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up	2019
NICE	
Early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management	2023
Improving outcomes in breast cancer	2002 (revisited 2014)
CCO	
Breast Screening for Survivors of Breast Cancer	2017
Ontario Breast Cancer Follow-up care guidance summary	2019
The Treatment of Lymphedema Related to Breast Cancer	2003
BCCA	
Breast Cancer: Management and Follow-up	2013
CFP	
Follow-up after treatment for breast cancer: Practical guide to survivorship care for family physicians	2016

**Table 2. Coverage of the ten domains of supportive care needs in breast cancer survivors by existing guidelines**

Guidelines	Psychological & Emotional needs	Health system & Information needs	Physical and daily living needs	Interpersonal needs & Intimacy concerns	Social needs	Family-related needs	Practical needs	Spiritual & Existential needs	Patient-clinician communication needs	Cognitive Needs	Total Domains Addressed (max 10)
ACSI/ASCO	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	9
NCCN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	9
Cancer Australia	X	X	X	X		X			X		6
ESMO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	10
NICE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
CCO ( Cancer Care Ontario)	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		7
BCCA (BC Cancer Agency)	X	X	X	X					X		5
CFP (Canadian Family Physicians)	X	X	X	X					X	X	6

**Table 3. Coverage of the five quality domains of a cancer survivorship program by existing guidelines**

Guidelines	Prevention and Surveillance for Recurrence and New Cancers	Surveillance and Management of Physical Effects	Surveillance and Management of Psychosocial Effects	Surveillance and Management of Chronic Medical Conditions	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	Total Domains Addressed (max 5)
ACSI/ASCO	X	X	X	X	X	5
NCCN	X	X	X	X	X	5
Cancer Australia	X	X	X	X		4
ESMO	X	X	X	X	X	5
NICE	X	X	X	X	X	5
CCO ( Cancer Care Ontario)	X	X	X	X	X	5
BCCA (BC Cancer Agency)	X	X	X	X	X	5
CFP (Canadian Family Physicians)	X	X	X	X	X	5