

# Mapping the Landscape of Financial Toxicity Assessment in Cancer: A Scoping Review

Manraj Singh Sra<sup>1</sup>, Parth Sharma<sup>1</sup>, Varun Raj Passi<sup>1</sup>, Larry Prokop<sup>2</sup>, Akshithanand K J<sup>1</sup>, Disha Agrawal<sup>1</sup>, Jashanjot Singh Mangat<sup>1</sup>, Anuja Jani<sup>1</sup>, Japmehar Kaur Sandhu<sup>1</sup>, Charmaine Blanchard<sup>3</sup>, **Enrique Soto-Perez-de-Celis**<sup>4</sup>, Pragati B Hebbar<sup>5</sup>, Arun Ghoshal<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR), Pune, India, <sup>2</sup> Mayo Clinic Libraries, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA, <sup>3</sup> Strengthening Oncology Services Research Unit & Centre for Palliative Care, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, <sup>4</sup> Division of Medical Oncology, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO, USA, <sup>5</sup> Chronic Conditions and Public Policies Cluster, Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, <sup>6</sup> Department of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care, Kasturba Medical College Manipal, Karnataka, India

## Introduction

- Financial toxicity, a global occurrence, is a barrier to equitable cancer care
- Limited research has been conducted on disparity in origin of method used to assess FT.
- Objective:** To examine tools used to assess FT across settings and identify global disparities in the generation of evidence.

## Methods

### Inclusion Criteria:

- Population:** ≥50% participants were cancer patients or their caregivers
- Outcome:** Financial toxicity
- Study Design:** Cross-sectional, cohort, RCTs, tool development/validation studies

### Exclusion Criteria:

- Studies focused only on treatment costs or socioeconomic inequalities

**Databases:** MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane, PsycINFO, Scopus, Web of Science

**Analysis:** FT questions/themes were categorized into material, behavioral, and psychosocial domains. Sub-domains were defined within each domain.

## Results

- Of the 3,343 records screened, 454 studies met the inclusion criteria.
- 81.7%** of the studies were conducted in high-income countries.
- 93.8%** of the studies focused on adult patients.

**Figure 1:** Domains and Subdomains Across 1,104 Questions Assessing Financial Toxicity

### Psychosocial Domain:

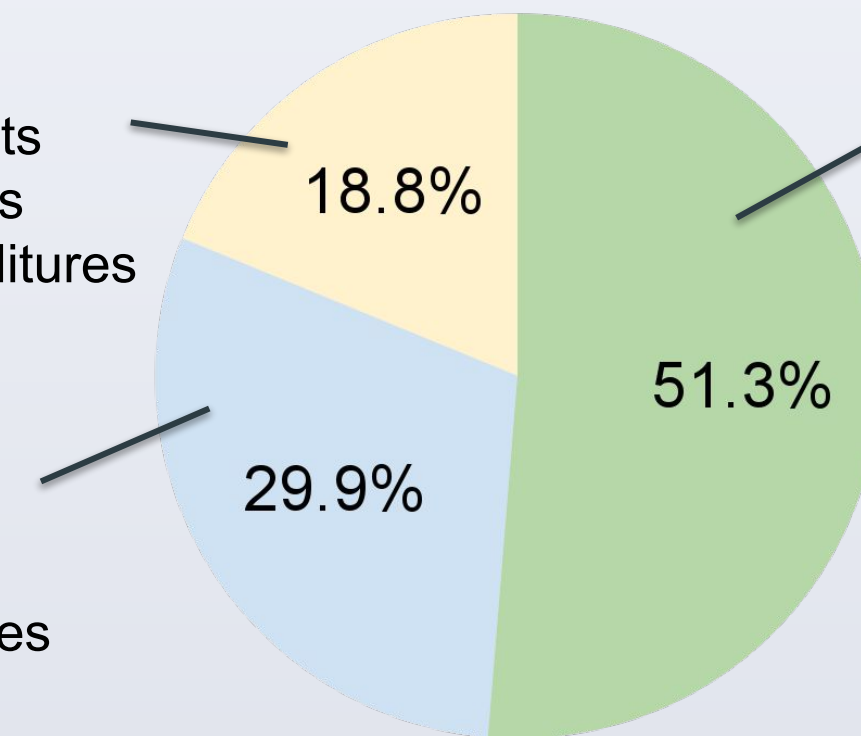
- The financial burden of healthcare costs
- Overall satisfaction with financial status
- Concern about non-healthcare expenditures

### Material Domain:

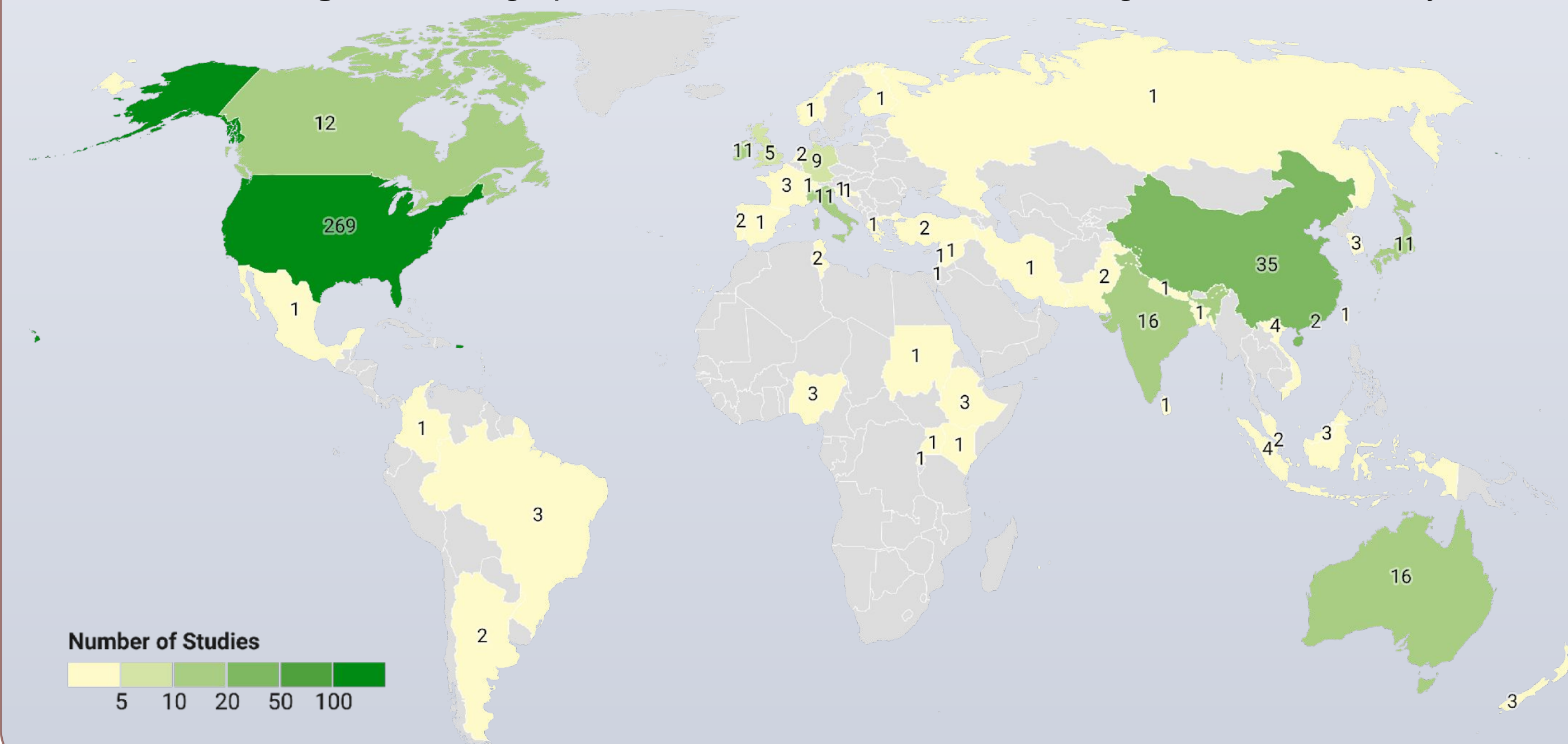
- Healthcare expenditure
- Applying for loans or credit
- Extent of health insurance coverage

### Behavioural Domain :

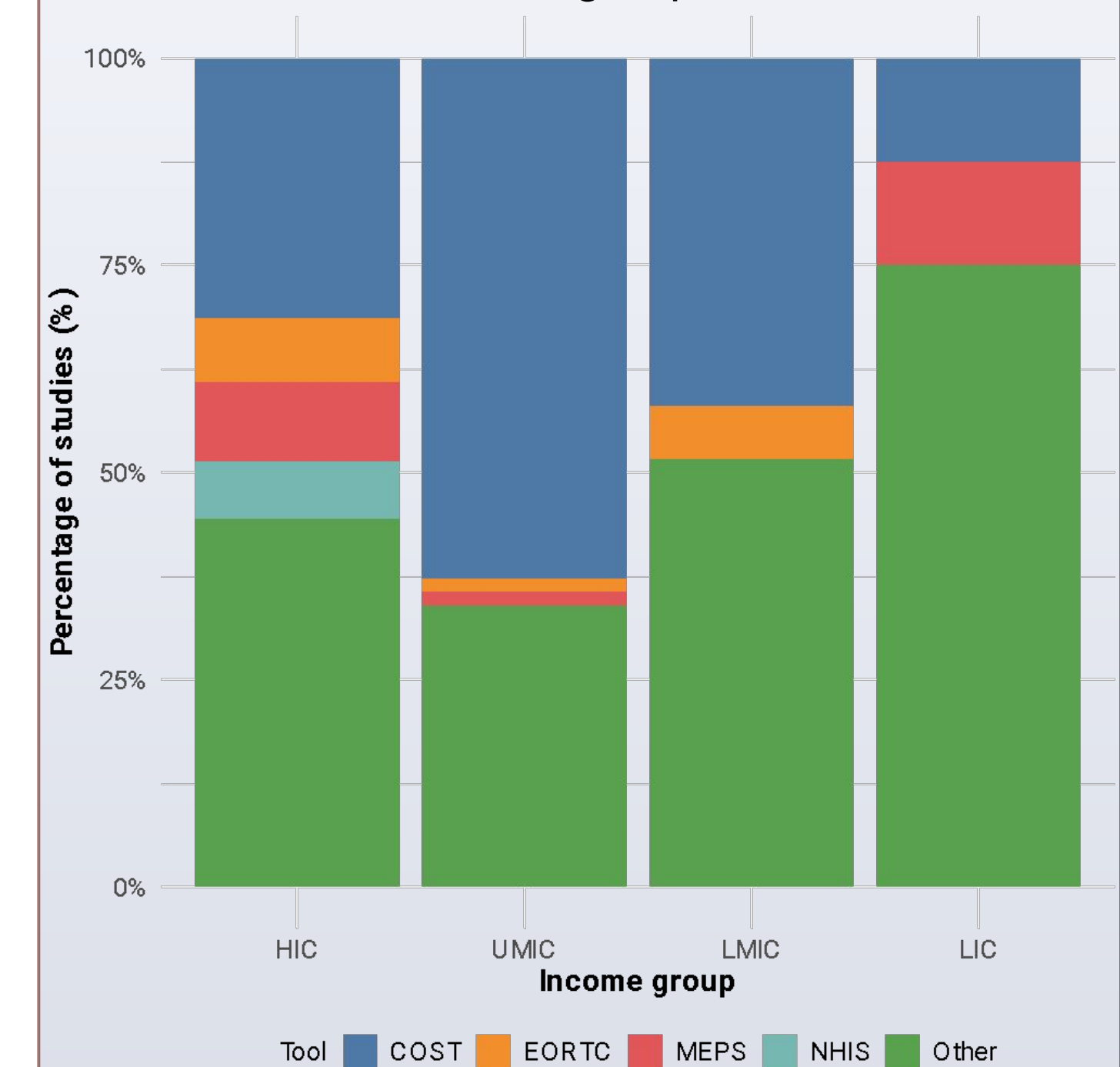
- Delaying or skipping healthcare services
- Delaying or skipping basic needs
- Switching to affordable or alternative medication sources



**Figure 2:** Geographical distribution of studies assessing the financial toxicity



**Figure 3:** Distribution of financial toxicity assessment questionnaires across country income groups.



## Conclusion

- Most FT studies focus on adults in HICs and assess the material domains
- There is limited research from LMICs, and on pediatric, adolescent patients, and caregivers
- There is a need for FT tools that are socio culturally relevant, especially for LMICs.