

# Rural and Remote Cancer Survivor Supportive Care Services: A Scoping Review

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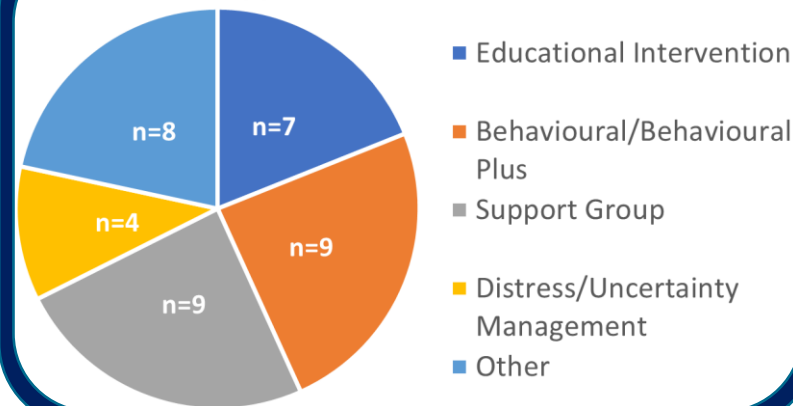
## Background

- **Cancer survivors need supportive care** to manage the impacts of the disease and its treatment. Current supportive care models predominantly cater to urban populations, leaving rural cancer survivors lacking sufficient support.
- **This study aimed** to identify supportive care services available to rural/remote cancer survivors by reviewing the literature to:
  - Describe **key components and types** of supportive care interventions.
  - Examine how the **efficacy** of these services has been measured.

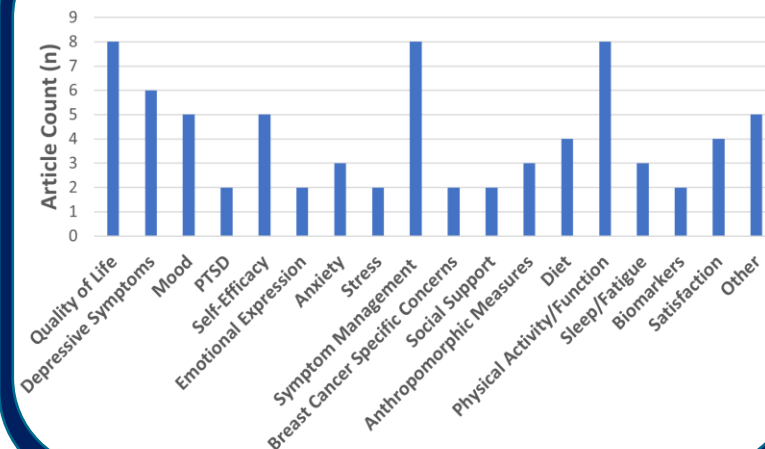
## Methods

- **Search strategy was developed** to identify literature on supportive care for rural/remote cancer survivors.
- Searched MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, and CINAHL databases.
- Included **experimental/quasi-experimental studies** on **post-treatment adults (18+)** in developing countries.
- Data synthesis included narrative summary of **results, intervention heterogeneity, and description of outcomes.**

## Types of Interventions



## Quantitative Efficacy Outcomes



## Results

- **37 studies** published between November 1999 and September 2023 were included.
- Most were **randomized controlled trials** or **descriptive nonexperimental studies**.
- Majority focused on **breast cancer survivors (n=21)**.
- Most featured a psychoeducational component.
- Varied delivery models but **telehealth** technologies were commonly utilized to bridge the distance gap (54%).
- Intervention type primarily included **support groups, behavioural interventions, and educational programs**.
- Both **qualitative** and **quantitative** approaches of efficacy measurement observed including **program evaluation (n=14)**, **participant experience (n=13)**, **quality of life (n=8)**, **symptom management (n=8)**, **physical activity (n=8)**, and **depressive symptoms (n=6)**.

## Conclusion

- This review identified types of supportive care services available to rural/remote cancer survivors highlighting **gaps in care** and **pinpointing areas where further research** is needed to ensure **equitable access to supportive care** for rural and remote cancer survivors.