

Introduction

- The rising cancer burden in sub-Saharan Africa demands evidence-based supportive care.
- African populations remain critically underrepresented in oncology clinical trials, limiting the development of supportive care interventions that address the region's unique genetic, environmental, and healthcare challenges.

Methods

- Utilizing the World Health Organization's Pan African Clinical Trial Registry (PACTR) Database, which serves as the regional database of clinical trials in Africa, we identified 169 oncology clinical trials across 286 recruitment sites in 53 African countries.

Results

- Total of 169 PACTR oncology clinical trials, concentrated in Egypt and Kenya
- Only 7 trials (4.1%) targeted supportive care in oncology across 10 recruitment sites
- Supportive care trials were present in only Egypt (6 trials) and Nigeria (1 trial).
- Focus areas: pain management (4 trials, 57%), nutritional optimization (2 trials, 28.5%), anxiety relief (1 trial, 14.2%)
- Trial status: 57.1% completed, 14.3% active but not recruiting, 14.3% recruiting, 14.3% not yet recruiting

Table/Figures

Table 1: Summary of Oncology Supportive Care Clinical Trials in Africa

Metric	Value
Total Oncology Trials in PACTR	169
Total Recruitment Sites	286
Supportive Care Trials in Africa	7 (4.1%)
Countries Conducting Supportive Care Trials	2 (Egypt: 6 trials, Nigeria 1 trial)
Trial Status Breakdown	
Active, Not Recruiting	1 (14.3%)
Recruiting	1 (14.3%)
Not Yet Recruiting	1 (14.3%)
Completed	4 (57.1%)

Overview of Oncology Supportive Care Clinical Trials across Africa (PACTR)

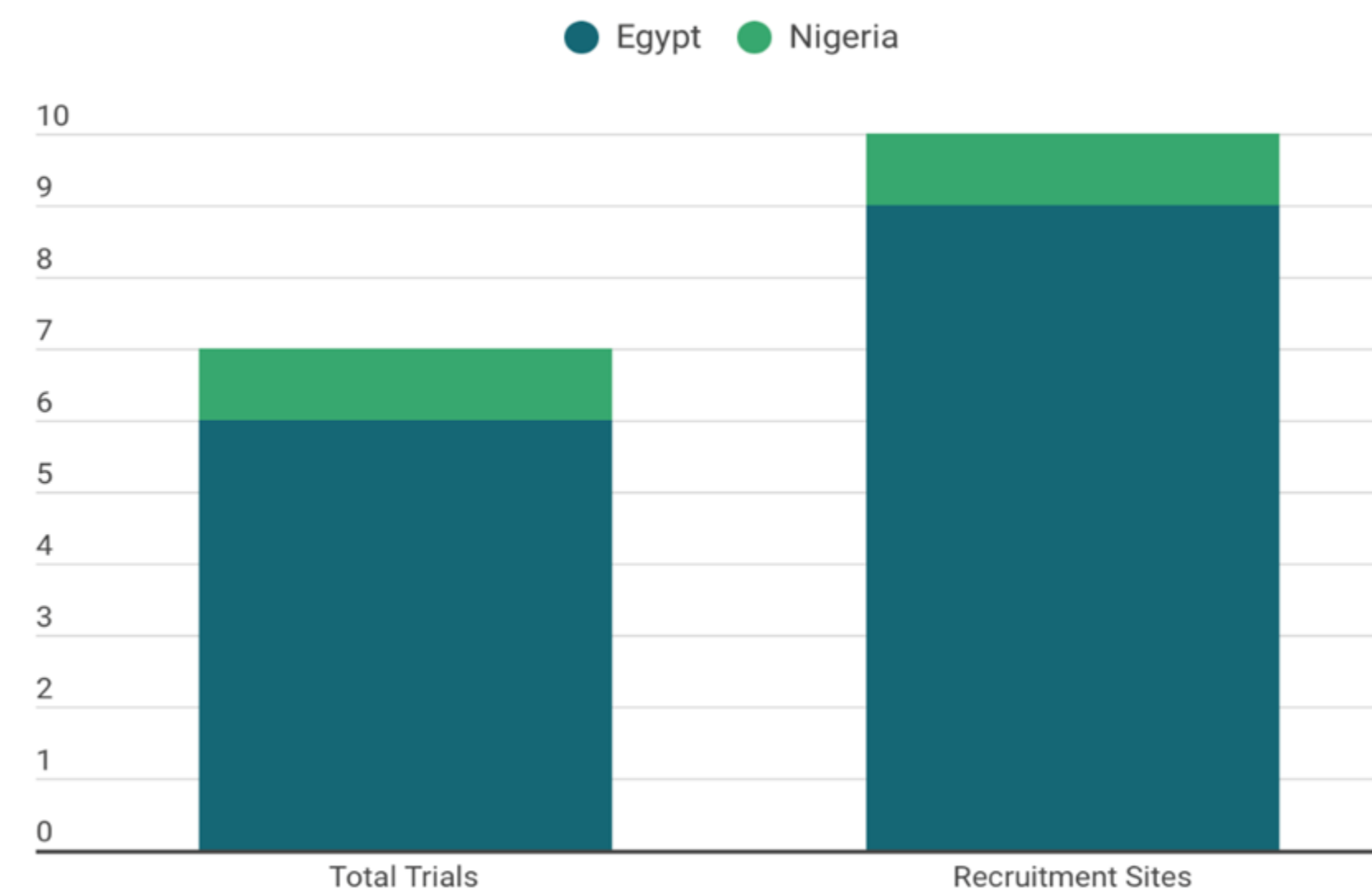


Figure 1: Overview of Oncology Supportive Care Clinical Trials across Africa (PACTR)

● Pain Management ● Nutritional Optimization ● Anxiety Relief



Figure 2: Distribution of Supportive Care Focus of Oncology Clinical Trials in Africa

Conclusions

- Limited clinical trial participation in Africa restricts access to oncology supportive care due to infrastructure, funding, and cultural barriers
- African cancer patients may experience suboptimal symptom management without effective supportive care interventions
- Tailored strategies and inclusive research are needed to improve trial accessibility and advance equitable oncology care for African patients

References

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Pan African Clinical Trial Registry:
<https://www.who.int/tools/clinical-trials-registry-platform/network/primary-registries/pan-african-clinical-trials-registry-pactr>