

ADULT CANCER SURVIVORSHIP CURRICULUM IN MEDICAL EDUCATION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Salwa Zaitoun*¹, Malika Peera*², Ayush Patel³, Adam Belluzo⁴, Sarah Hammoud⁵, Jashmira Binder², Dominic Sferrazza⁶, Kritika Sharma¹, Shing Fung Lee⁷, Edward Chow⁸, Henry CY Wong⁹, Jennifer Jones¹⁰, Muna Alkhaifi*¹¹

¹ Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Toronto St. George, Toronto, Canada, ² Faculty of Health Sciences, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, ³ Department of Psychology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, ⁴ Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, York University, Toronto, Canada, ⁵ Faculty of Science, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, ⁶ St. Michael's College School, Toronto, ON, Canada, ⁷ Department of Radiation Oncology, National Cancer Institute, Singapore, ⁸ Department of Radiation Oncology, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada, ⁹ Department of Oncology, Princess Margaret Hospital, Kowloon West Cluster, Hong Kong S.A.R., China, ¹⁰ Cancer Rehabilitation and Survivorship Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, Toronto, Canada, ¹¹ Department of Family and Community Medicine, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Introduction

- The global cancer survivor population is rapidly increasing, creating greater demand for long-term care
- Survivors often face persistent physical and mental health challenges, including cardiac issues, fatigue, anxiety, and lifestyle difficulties
- There is a critical need for continuous post-treatment support and survivorship training in medical education due to ongoing health needs and limited oncology resources

Methods

- A systematic review was conducted to identify empirical studies across Embase, MEDLINE, CINAHL, and Web of Science
- Study quality was assessed using GRADE
- Risk of bias was evaluated with ROBINS-I.

Results	
Study Design	Number of studies
Quasi-experimental	3. (3.33%)
Mixed Method	2 (2.22%)
Cross Sectional survey	2 (2.22%)
Qualitative	1 (1.11%)
Cohort	1 (1.11%)
Educational Delivery Methods	Number of studies
In Person Didactic	6 (66.6%)
Online Modules	3. (3.33%)
Group Discussions	2 (2.22%)
Presentations	2 (2.22%)
Speaker Panels	2 (2.22%)
Topics covered	Number of studies
Side Effects and Surveillance	N=7, (77.7%)
Patient Perspectives and Experiences	N=5 (55.5%)
Survivorship care plan treatment Summaries	N=4 (44.4%)

Conclusion

- Current survivorship curricula enhance understanding of survivorship, patient experiences, and treatment approaches
- Gaps remain in assessing long-term outcomes and addressing diverse survivor needs

Future Directions

- Future frameworks should prioritize long-term support, outcome evaluation, and empathy-based training
- Programs should address clinical needs like recurrence anxiety using varied methods (e.g., lectures, reflection, discussions)
- Research should assess long-term outcomes (Kirkpatrick Levels 3 & 4) and expand beyond North America to build global standards

