

# **Prevalence and Correlates of Sleep Difficulties Identified Using Practice-Based** Screening in a Large and Diverse Outpatient Oncology Population

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## INTRODUCTION

- Sleep disturbances are common, persistent, and under-treated in oncology care
- Identifying patients at risk is critical for improving symptom management and quality of life

# **PURPOSE**

Identify the prevalence and correlates of potentially clinically significant sleep difficulties using routine distress screening data from a large, diverse outpatient oncology population

## **METHODS**

- **Sample:** 20,153 patients completing an initial screen from Jan 2017-Aug 2023
- Sleep difficulties: rated from 0 (none) to 10 (extreme) over the past 2 weeks
- **Threshold:** ≥5 considered clinically significant
- Analyses: Bivariable and multi-variable logistic regression predicting clinically significant difficulties using backward selection for predictors

# **Patient Population**

- 60% Female
- 2% Hispanic or Latino/a



# **Sleep Difficulties by Severity**



More than 1 in 3 oncology patients reported clinically significant sleep difficulties

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# RESULTS

# **Characteristics Associated with Greater Odds of Clinically** Significant Sleep Difficulties

Risk was higher for patients who were female, under 65, used tobacco, abstained from alcohol, and reported distress, pain, or financial or relationship problems. Certain cancer types (e.g., lung, hematologic) also showed elevated risk. Race, ethnicity, and cancer stage were not significant risk factors.

Wake Forest University School of Medicine is the academic core of Atrium Health.

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# CONCLUSIONS

- Sleep difficulties are prevalent and associated with psychosocial concerns and cancer type
- Difficulties may be present before treatment and are independent of cancer stage
- Individuals screening positive using a single item is a heterogeneous populationfollow-up assessment is needed to determine cause and type of disturbance to inform treatment
- Integrating brief follow-up or referrals for sleep support may improve outcomes



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