

Introduction

It is well documented that haematopoietic cell transplant patients experience financial toxicity during treatment. However, the impact of socioeconomic status on long-term health and wellbeing is unknown.

Aims

To explore i) the **extent of financial burden** post-transplant, ii) how this affects **transplant recipients' wellbeing**, and iii) what **support and resources** are needed to support socioeconomic wellbeing post-transplant.

Methods

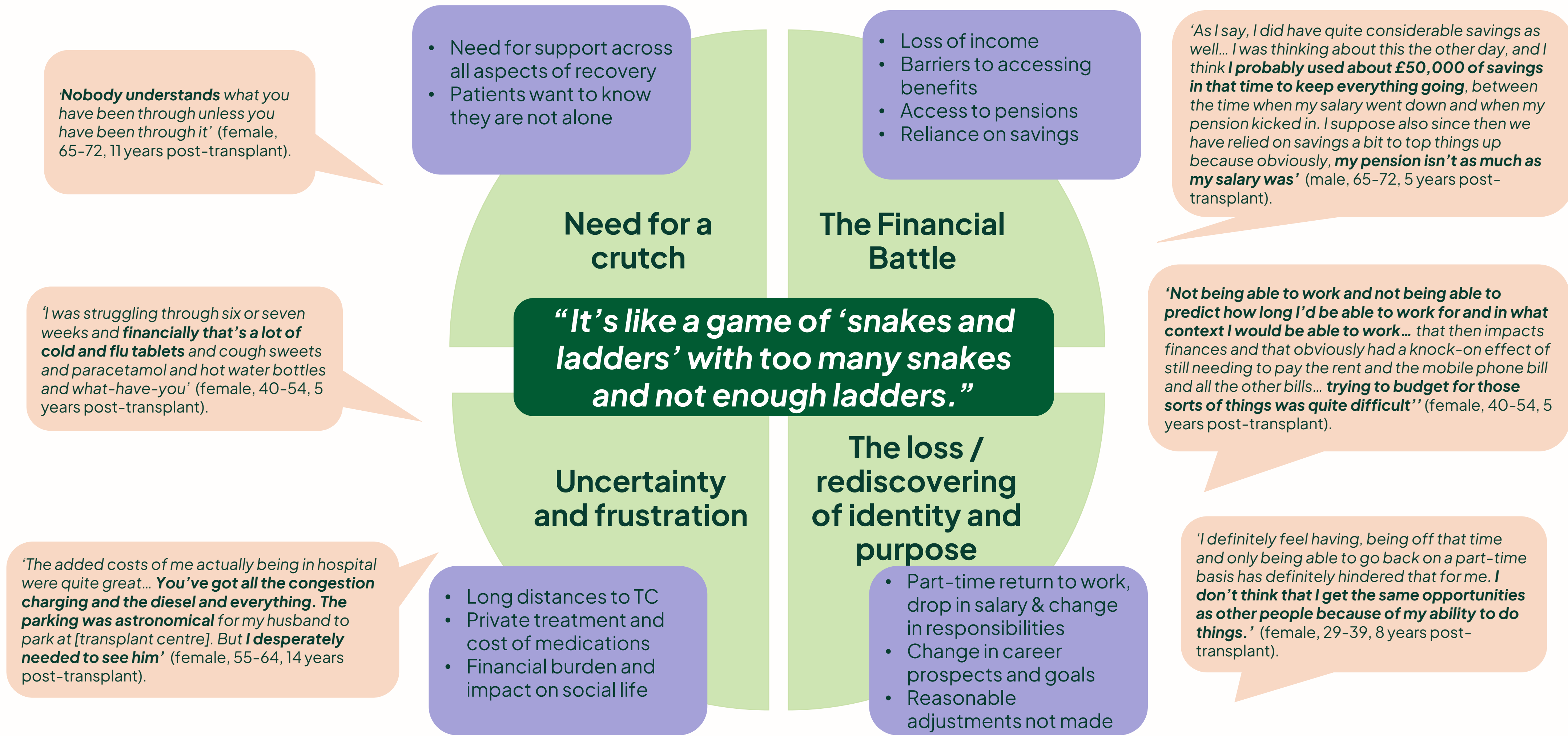
This was a qualitative study, using one-to-one semi-structured interviews. Participants were recruited through Anthony Nolan hosted patient forums, groups and community channels. Interviews were conducted via videocall or phone call and followed the same semi-structured interview guide. Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Analysis was performed using NVivo 14 qualitative analysis software and applied the Braun and Clarke six-phase approach to thematic analysis.

Results

Participants likened transplant recovery to a game of snakes and ladders, with too many snakes and not enough ladders. Snakes represent challenges such as loss of income, inability to return to work, out of pocket costs and barriers to accessing welfare advice and support. Ladders represent the support systems patients rely on to overcome these challenges. However, support services are often difficult to find, navigate and access.

Conclusion & next steps

Social determinants of health and individuals' living circumstances determine the level of financial toxicity experienced and in turn, influences patients' quality-of-life post-transplant. Addressing and reducing socioeconomic hardship could improve patient outcomes, particularly in relation to their social and occupational wellbeing.



Patient Involvement

A Patient Advisory Group (PAG) of individuals (n=6) with lived experience of receiving a stem cell transplant were involved in the development of the study design and materials. PAG members gave feedback on the study materials, as well as study aims and objectives, to ensure the study was designed to reflect the full patient experience of the impact of transplant on social and financial wellbeing. Following completion of interviews, the initial emergent themes were presented to the PAG. Data triangulation occurred with the PAG, who were involved in checking the validity and reliability of the emergent themes and agreeing the final thematic definitions.