INPLASY

Unmet needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) cancer survivors in Australia: A systematic review

Corresponding author:
Sita Sharma

sita.sharma@unisq.edu.au

Author Affiliation:
University of Southern Queensland.

Li, JQ; Tan, JY; Wang, HY; Wang, T; Li, MY; Terry, D; Taylor, M; Huang, YL; Sharma, S.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Review Stage at time of this submission - The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 18 November 2024 and was last updated on 18 November 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective 1. What are the unmet needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) cancer survivors in Australia?
2. What factors are associated with unmet needs among CALD cancer survivors in Australia?
3. What are the suggestions for addressing the unmet needs of CALD cancer survivors in Australia?

Rationale Australia's rich cultural diversity stems from its large population of immigrants from various parts of the world. Cancer survivors from CALD backgrounds often face unique challenges, such as financial hardships, language barriers, and cultural disparities, all of which impact their access to and experience of healthcare services significantly (Pham et al., 2021). Despite the high survival rates for cancer in Australia, the quality of life for many survivors, particularly those from CALD backgrounds, remains compromised due to these unmet needs (Heilat et al., 2020). There is a significant gap in the understanding of the specific unmet needs of CALD cancer survivors in Australia. This project aims to fill the gap by conducting a systematic review to identify current evidence on the unmet needs of this vulnerable population.

References
Pham TTL, Berecki-Gisolf J, Clapperton A, O'Brien KS, Liu S, Gibson K. Definitions of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD): A Literature Review of Epidemiological Research in Australia. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Jan 16;18(2):737
Heilat GB, Brennan ME, Kanesalingam K, Sriram N, Meybodi F, French J. Presentation, tumour and treatment features in immigrant women from Arabic-speaking countries treated for breast cancer in Australia. ANZ J Surg. 2020 Mar;90(3):325-331.

Condition being studied The unmet care needs among CALD cancer survivors in Australia. Care needs are the need for specific actions or resources in care that are essential, beneficial, or helpful in achieving optimal well-being (Sanson Fisher, et al.,2000). Care needs include but are not limited to activities of daily living, psychological, information, psychosocial, physical, spiritual, communication, and sexuality (Harrison et al., 2009).
References
Sanson-Fisher R, Girgis A, Boyes A, Bonevski B, Burton L, Cook P. The unmet supportive care needs of patients with cancer. Supportive Care Review Group. Cancer. 2000 Jan 1;88(1):226-37.
Harrison JD, Young JM, Price MA, Butow PN, Solomon MJ. What are the unmet supportive care needs of people with cancer? A systematic review. Support Care Cancer. 2009 Aug;17(8):1117-28.

METHODS

Search strategy MeSH terms, entry terms, and keywords will be adopted as the search terms to identify possible studies: cultural diversity, needs assessment, unmet needs, cancer survivors, neoplasms, cancer, tumour, Australia, etc.

Participant or population The target population is cancer survivors (regardless of the type of cancer and cancer stages) with CALD backgrounds in Australia. All participants in the studies must be ≥18 years old.

Intervention The phenomenon of interest is unmet needs among cancer survivors with CALD backgrounds in Australia.

Comparator NA.

Study designs to be included Original studies that focus on the unmet needs or concerns that are directly linked to the unmet needs of cancer survivors with CALD backgrounds in Australia, regardless of the study design.

Eligibility criteria
(1) Published in English
(2) Studied with full text
(3) Studies including mixed cultural groups must report outcomes separately for a sub-group of CALD cancer survivors in Australia.
(4) Studies including adolescents and persons under 18 years old must report separately for the adult group, otherwise, they will be excluded.

Information sources The following electronic databases will be searched by two reviewers (JQL and MYL) independently: PubMed, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Embase, Web of Science (WOS), PsycINFO, ProQuest, Scopus, and MEDLINE. To ensure comprehensive literature coverage, additional searches will be performed by examining the reference lists of relevant articles and previous systematic reviews, as well as through citation tracking, continuing until no further relevant articles are identified. Grey literature, including unpublished dissertations and conference proceedings, will be searched through the library.

Main outcome(s) The primary outcome will be the unmet needs of CALD cancer survivors in Australia. The secondary outcomes include factors that affect the unmet needs of CALD cancer survivors and suggestions and recommendations for addressing unmet needs.

Data management Data management will be facilitated by using Endnote 21.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis The methodological quality of the included studies will be assessed independently by two reviewers (JQL and MYL) with the Mix Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) (Pace et al, 2012). This tool provides screening questions for all types of studies and different criteria for certain studies.
Reference
Pace R, Pluye P, Bartlett G, Macaulay AC, Salsberg J, Jagosh J, Seller R. Testing the reliability and efficiency of the pilot Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) for systematic mixed studies review. Int J Nurs Stud. 2012 Jan;49(1):47-53.

Strategy of data synthesis Descriptive analysis will be used to identify the categories of unmet needs among CALD cancer survivors across quantitative, qualitative, and systematic review studies. Due to the significant heterogeneity of the included studies, a narrative synthesis will be used to determine the prevalence of unmet needs among CALD cancer survivors. Factors related to unmet needs and recommendations for addressing them will be summarised and reported.

Subgroup analysis NA.

Sensitivity analysis NA.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Australia.

Dissemination plans The systematic review will be published in a peer-reviewed journal and presented at an academic conference.

Contributions of each author
Author 1 - Jinqiu Li - Conceptualization, design, implementation, manuscript drafting, and submission.
Email: jinqiu.li@unisq.edu.au
Author 2 - Jing-Yu (Benjamin) Tan - Conceptualization, design, quality assurance, and manuscript revision.
Email: benjamin.tan@unisq.edu.au
Author 3 - Haiying Wang - Conceptualization, design, quality assurance, and manuscript revision.
Email: emily.wang@unisq.edu.au
Author 4 - Tao (Alison) Wang - Conceptualization, design, quality assurance, and manuscript revision.
Email: alison.wang@cdu.edu.au
Author 5 - Mengyuan Li - Methodology, and implementation.
Email: mengyuanli@students.cdu.edu.au
Author 6 - Daniel Terry - Design, and manuscript review.
Email: daniel.terry@unisq.edu.au
Author 7 - Melissa Taylor - Design, and manuscript review.
Email: melissa.taylor@unisq.edu.au
Author 8 - Ya-Ling Huang - Design, and manuscript review.
Email: ya-ling.huang@unisq.edu.au
Author 9 - Sita Sharma - Conceptualization, design, quality assurance, and manuscript revision.
Email: sita.sharma@unisq.edu.au