

From inside the bubble: migrants' perceptions of communication with the cancer team

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Key Words:

cancer, culturally appropriate care

Research aim:

This study aimed to identify health-care related unmet needs and communication issues for migrants who develop cancer and factors associated with these challenges. In this paper, the findings related to communication issues are presented.

Results/Conclusion:

Four themes emerged: (1) cultural isolation, alienation and identification; (2) language and communication difficulties; (3) interpreter issues; and (4) advice for health professionals. Participants, especially those less acculturated, described feeling alone and misunderstood, failing to comprehend medical instructions, being unable to communicate questions and concerns and a lack of consistency in interpreters and interpretation.

Implications:

Migrants with cancer experience additional challenges to those of native-born patients. Participants provided cogent advice regarding optimal communication with people from their culture. There is clearly a need to develop strategies to increase the cultural competence of care to people from different countries.

Cultural Group(s):

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

73 cancer patients, 18 carers

Type of participants:

Cancer patients diagnosed in the past three years and carers who had migrated to Australia and spoke the designated languages

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: