Unmet needs in immigrant cancer survivors: a cross-sectional population-based study


Key Words: cancer, larger study, translation, information access

Research aim: This study aimed to document unmet needs, and variables associated with these, in a population-based sample of first-generation immigrants and Anglo-Australians who had survived cancer.

Results/Conclusion: Compared to Anglo-Australians, the adjusted odds ratio of Chinese immigrants for at least one unmet information/support need was 5.1 (95 % CI 3.1, 8.3) and for any unmet physical need was 3.1 (95 % CI 1.9, 5.1). For Greek, these were 2.0 (95 % CI 1.1, 4.0) and 2.7 (95 % CI 1.4, 5.2). Arabic patients had elevated, but not statistically significant, odds ratios compared to Anglo-Australians. Written information and having a specialist, support services, and other health professionals who spoke their language were in the top ten unmet needs amongst immigrants. Immigrant cancer survivors, several years after initial diagnosis, are more likely to have an unmet need for information or for help with a physical problem than Anglo-Australians. They strongly desire information and support in their own language.

Implications:

Cultural Group(s): Chinese, Arabic, Greek, Anglo-Australians

Location of study: New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria

Age group: not specific to older people (18-80)

Number included in study: 596 (277 immigrants)

Type of participants: Eligible participants, recruited via three State Cancer Registries, included those: with a new diagnosis of one of 12 most incident cancers (all stages) 1-6 years earlier; aged 18-80 at diagnosis; born in a Chinese, Arabic, or Greek speaking country and able to speak one of these languages.

Research approach: Quantitative

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used: Cancer registries data

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/Recommendations:

Notes: See other publication by same authors about quality of life difference across groups