

Use and Impact of Social Media platforms for Peer Support by Young Adults living with Cancer: A systematic review protocol.

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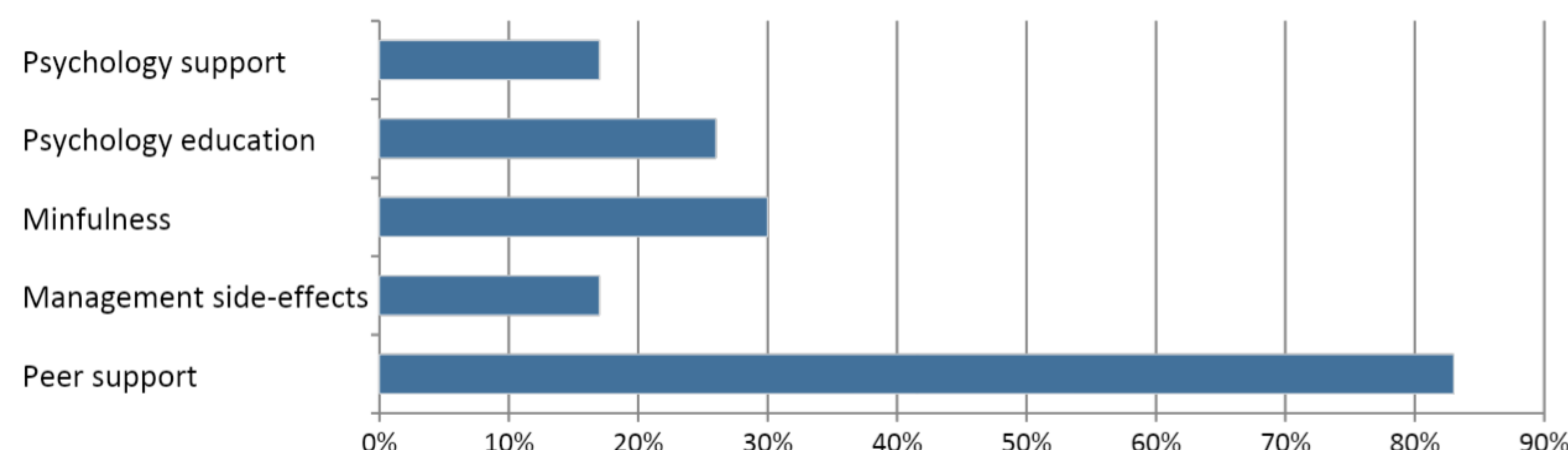
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Background:

- Young Women with Breast Cancer (YWBC) have unique psychosocial needs as established by our current qualitative research
- Participants described all-age peer support options to be inconvenient and anxiety inducing
- Participants unanimously emphasized the need for age-specific peer support and enjoyed the convenience of online platforms

“I went to a support group once or twice and I found it super depressing, there was just everybody’s terrible experience and I found that really hard. I liked the one-on-one, it met the needs of a group, which is ultimately not feeling alone, but it is less overwhelming,”

Self-management Tool

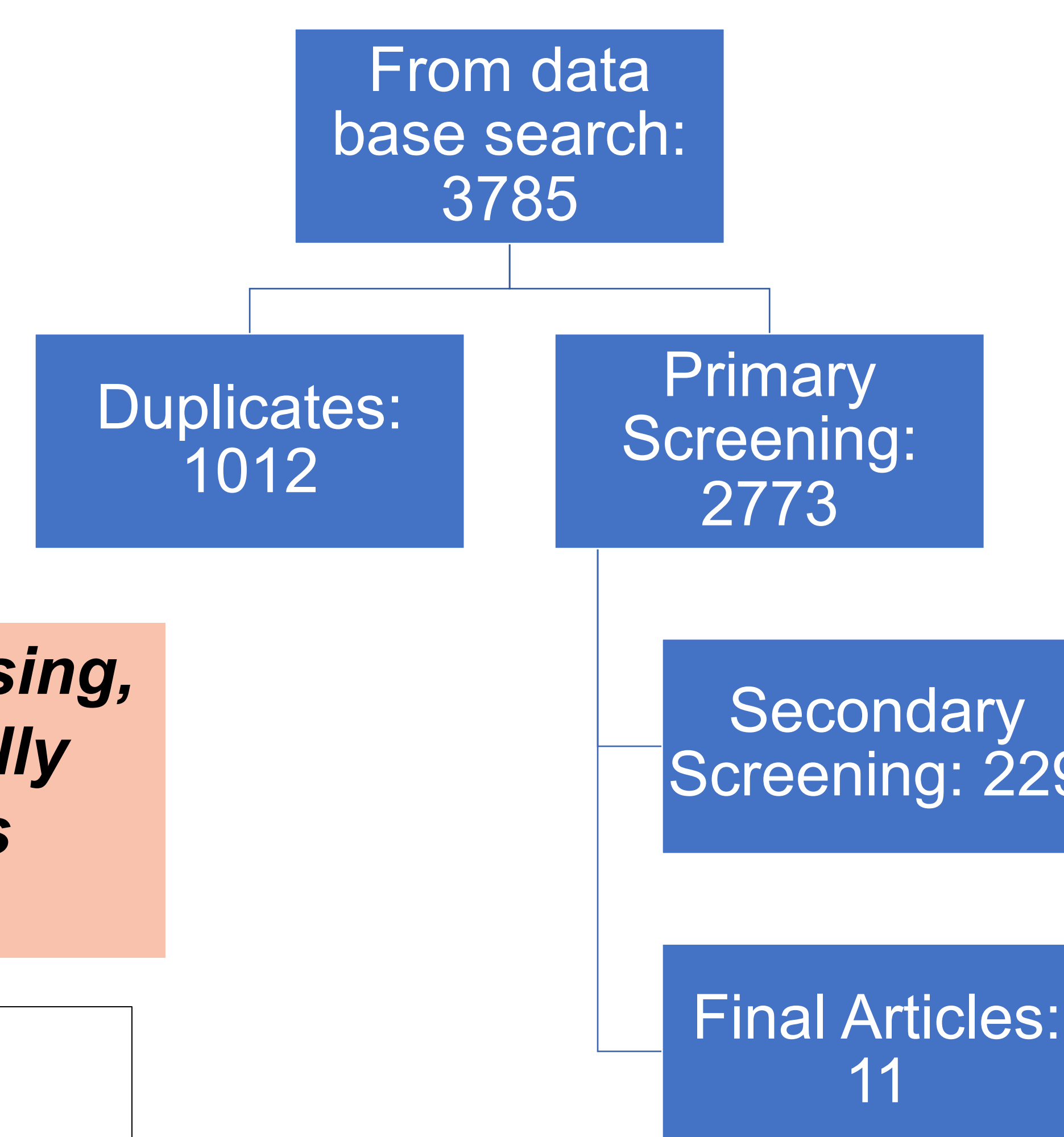


“There needs to be a much more significant recognition, that a thirty-five year-old woman facing breast cancer has a very different set of circumstances than a sixty-five year-old woman. I have never heard a medical professional identify that first.”

Acknowledgements: Funding for this project was provided by the SPHERE studentship

Objective:

We are conducting a systematic review looking for the effectiveness of peer support through social media in young adults diagnosed with cancer to inform the development of a peer support platform for young cancer patients in the future.



Methods:

- Systematic review following PRISMA guidelines. Cochrane Register, CINAHL, Embase & Medline databases were searched.
- Inclusion criteria: ages 18 to 40 at time of study and diagnosis, mixed-methods or quantitative studies focusing on stages 0-IV cancers, peer support/social media interventions

Results and Future Directions:

- Had an inter-rater reliability of 87% from two independent reviewers in two rounds of screening.
- Identified 21 additional systematic reviews and references to expand search
- We have completed data abstraction and have found several preliminary themes.
- These themes will help guide us in our program development of a peer support tool.
- Our peer support tool will be age specific and respond to the unique psychosocial needs of YWBC.