

Abstract Theme: Sociodemographic, Culture, and Sex/Gender Issues in Cancer

18 A Scoping Review of the Psychosocial Needs and Experiences of Transgender and Gender-Diverse Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer

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1. Background/Rationale or Objectives/Purpose

The psychosocial needs and experiences of transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) patients is an understudied area of oncology research. In response to calls to action from past researchers, we conducted a scoping literature review to provide an overview of the available research evidence.

2. Methodology or Methods

Databases such as PubMed and PsycINFO were searched for studies published from January 2000 to August 2020 on the experiences of TGD people diagnosed with cancer. Following the literature search and initial analysis of the nine included studies, a consultation of key stakeholders (i.e., TGD people with lived cancer experience, people who work to support and advocate for the TGD community, and researchers in the area of TGD healthcare) was conducted via an online survey to gain important feedback to inform our final recommendations.

3. Impact on Practice or Results

The following key themes were identified from the nine included articles: (1) lack of coordination between gender-affirming care and cancer care; (2) impact of cancer care on gender affirmation; (3) navigating gendered assumptions; (4) variation in providers' understanding of patients' needs; and (5) lack of trans-specific cancer resources. Based on this literature review and stakeholder (n = 18) feedback, we offer recommendations for future research and clinical practice to ensure that the psychosocial needs of TGD patients are met.

4. Discussion or Conclusions

The present review is an important starting point for future research in the area of TGD cancer care. Sex and gender can play an integral part in the cancer journey, so the psychosocial experiences of TGD people diagnosed with cancer are often very different from those of their cisgender counterparts. It is essential that this discrepancy is reflected in the literature and clinical practice.