

Cancer survivors: Between bureaucracy and clinical duty

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Cancer survivorship – a new challenge?

Increase in the number of cancer survivors

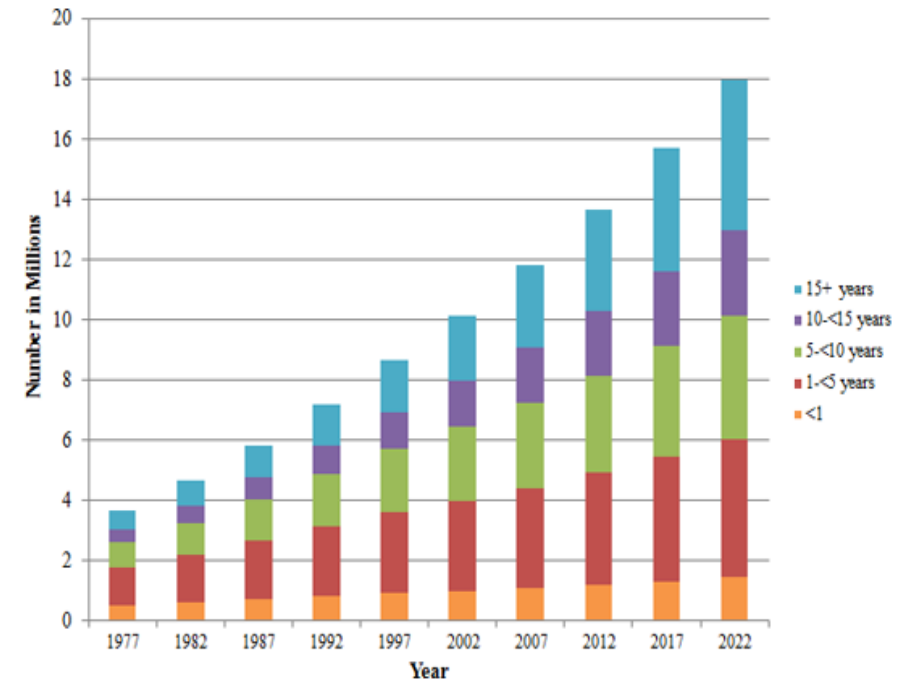
- Increased screening
- Improved treatment
- Better life expectancy
- Increased cancer incidence

2/3 adults

3/4 children

survivors

Estimated and projected number cancer survivors in the United States from 1977-2022 by years since diagnosis



de Moor JS, Mariotto AB, Parry C, Alfano CM, Padgett L, Kent EE, Forsythe L, Scoppa S, Hachey M, and Rowland JH. Cancer Survivors in the United States: Prevalence across the Survivorship Trajectory and Implications for Care. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2013 Apr;22(4):561-70. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-12-1356. Epub 2013 Mar 27.

Surviving cancer – at what cost?

- Comorbidities
 - Cancer
 - Cancer treatment
 - Recurrent cancer
 - Second primary cancer
- Aging population
- Pain in cancer survivors
 - Prevalence 33%
- Etiology
 - Surgery
 - Medical treatment
 - Radiation treatment

Survival accompanied by suffering and a poor quality of life
is not the intended goal.

Are we ineffective?

- System focus at present
 - Acute care of cancer
 - Care of acute effects of treatment
 - Risk of relapse

Most chronic pain in cancer survivors is a consequence of cancer treatment. Survival is the principle goal in cancer treatment and the prevalence of chronic pain, disfigurement, or other adverse treatment-related effects in survivors may be either underappreciated or considered a recognized and subordinate risk in a quest for survival by both providers and patients

Who is taking care?

- < 3 years



- 3-5 y follow-up



- Life long follow-up

- Significant gap in care for long term symptoms and side effects



- Increased morbidities, mortality
- Decreased Quality Of Life

- Undefined role of PCP in survivors' care

LOST IN TRANSITION

Being a CS

- CS is an issue
 - Cancer survivors -2/3 adults and $\frac{3}{4}$ children
- Taking CS on charge
 - Unmoor from the Biomedical model and reason within the BPS model
 - Get accessible ways to frame awareness
- Health policy will need
 - Chronic pain leads to deconditioning and inactivity
 - Other symptoms, social, emotional and spiritual issues need being addressed
 - Recognize health professionals' strengths and weakness

Another dimension of a new normality