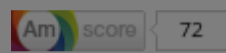


Impact of Financial Burden of Cancer on Survivors' Quality of Life

Authors: [Kathleen M. Fenn](#), [Suzanne B. Evans, MD, MPH](#), [Ruth McCorkle, PhD](#), [Michael P. DiGiovanna, MD, PhD](#), [Lajos Pusztai, MD, DPhil](#), [Tara Sanft, MD](#), [Erin W. Hofstatter,](#)

[MD](#), ... [SHOW ALL ...](#), and [Anees B. Chagpar, MD, MSc, MPH, MA, FRCS\(C\), FACS](#) ✉️ | [AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

JOP 10, 332-338(2014) • [Volume 10, Number 5](#) • [DOI: 10.1200/JOP.2013.001322](#)



Abstract

Purpose:

Little is known about the relationship between the financial burden of cancer and the physical and emotional health of cancer survivors. We examined the association between financial problems caused by cancer and reported quality of life in a population-based sample of patients with cancer.

Methods:

Data from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) were analyzed. A multivariable regression model was used to examine the relationship between the degree to which cancer caused financial problems and the patients' reported quality of life.

Results:

Of 2,108 patients who answered the survey question, "To what degree has cancer caused financial problems for you and your family?," 8.6% reported "a lot," whereas 69.6% reported "not at all." Patients who reported "a lot" of financial problems as a result of cancer care costs were more likely to rate their physical health (18.6% v 4.3%, $P < .001$), mental health (8.3% v 1.8%, $P < .001$), and satisfaction with social activities and relationships (11.8% v 3.6%, $P < .001$) as poor compared to those with no financial hardship. On multivariable analysis controlling for all of the significant covariates on bivariate analysis, the degree to which cancer caused financial problems was the strongest independent predictor of quality of life. Patients who reported that cancer caused "a lot" of financial problems were four times less likely to rate their quality of life as "excellent," "very good," or "good" (odds ratio = 0.24; 95% CI, 0.14 to 0.40; $P < .001$).

Conclusion:

Increased financial burden as a result of cancer care costs is the strongest independent predictor of poor quality of life among cancer survivors.



Get full access to this article

View all available purchase options and get full access to this article.

GET ACCESS

To ensure the optimal website experience, ASCO utilizes cookies and similar technologies such as web beacons/pixels for a multitude of purposes, including site functionality, displaying personalized and recommended content, and the collection of analytics to help improve how our customers engage with us. Clicking "Accept All" allows you to access all features of this website. For more information, see our [Privacy Policy](#). Use of our website represents your acceptance of our [Terms of Use](#).

Settings

Reject All

Accept All

In the author affiliations, the location for Yale School of Medicine and Yale School of Nursing was given as Boston, MA, whereas it should have been New Haven, CT.

Also, the title was incorrectly given as "Impact of Financial Burden of Cancer on Survivors' Quality of Life?".

This has been corrected as of July 21, 2014.

Authors' Disclosures of Potential Conflicts of Interest

The authors indicated no potential conflicts of interest.

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

ASCO Career Center

Multiple Faculty Positions Hematology/Oncology

Baltimore, Maryland (US) | Competitive Salary and Benefits Package

The Department of Medicine of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center...

Employer: University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC) [Apply for this job](#)

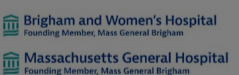


Faculty Position in Hematology/Oncology: Inpatient Medicine Hospitalist

Boston, Massachusetts (US) | Pay Range: \$240,000- \$340,000

The Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute invites applications for dedicated physician faculty to join the MGB Hematology Oncology inpatient team

Employer: Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute [Apply for this job](#)

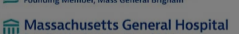
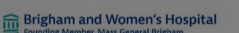


Faculty Position in Hematology/Oncology: Nocturnist Medicine Hospitalist

Boston, Massachusetts | Competitive Salary and Benefits Package

The Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Division of Hematology/Oncology currently seeks applications from board-certified or board-eligible inter...

Employer: Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute [Apply for this job](#)



ADVERTISEMENT

To ensure the optimal website experience, ASCO utilizes cookies and similar technologies such as web beacons/pixels for a multitude of purposes, including site functionality, displaying personalized and recommended content, and the collection of analytics to help improve how our customers engage with us. Clicking "Accept All" allows you to access all features of this website. For more information, see our [Privacy Policy](#). Use of our website represents your acceptance of our [Terms of Use](#).

Settings

Reject All

Accept All

Recommended Articles

ORIGINAL REPORTS | FEBRUARY 2016

[Association of Financial Strain With Symptom Burden and Quality of Life for Patients With Lung or Colorectal Cancer](#)

FOCUS ON QUALITY | DECEMBER 2014

[Population-Based Assessment of Cancer Survivors' Financial Burden and Quality of Life: A Prospective Cohort Study](#)

CANCER PREVENTION, HEREDITARY GENETICS, AND EPIDEMIOLOGY | MAY 2019

[Health insurance literacy, financial hardship and financial sacrifices among cancer survivors in the United States.](#)

ORIGINAL REPORTS | AUGUST 2017

[Financial Burden in Survivors of Childhood Cancer: A Report From the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study](#)

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE | OCTOBER 2015

[Financial burden among survivors of childhood cancer: A report from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study.](#)

[View full text](#) | [Download PDF](#)

ASCO[®]

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY
KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

JOURNALS

[Journal of Clinical Oncology](#)

[JCO Oncology Practice](#)

[JCO Global Oncology](#)

[JCO Clinical Cancer Informatics](#)

[JCO Precision Oncology](#)

[JCO Oncology Advances](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[ASCO Educational Book](#)

[ASCO Daily News](#)

[ASCO Connection](#)

[The ASCO Post](#)

[ASCO Podcasts](#)

CONTENT

[Journal Podcasts](#)

[Topics](#)

[Meeting Abstracts](#)

[ASCO Guidelines](#)

INFORMATION

[Author Center](#)

[Subscriber Center](#)

[Permissions](#)

[Reprints](#)

[Advertise](#)

[E-Alerts](#)

[View My Profile](#)

[About ASCO Journals](#)

✕ FOLLOW US

[JCO_ASCO](#)

[JCOOP_ASCO](#)

[JCOGO_ASCO](#)

[JCOPO_ASCO](#)

[JCOCCL_ASCO](#)

[JCOOA_ASCO](#)

ASCO

[About ASCO](#)

[Press Center](#)

[Meetings & Education](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ASCO WEBSITES

[asco.org](#)

[ASCO Career Center](#)

[Conquer Cancer](#)

American Society of Clinical Oncology.

2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314

© 2026 American Society of Clinical Oncology

[Site Map](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Cookies](#)

To ensure the optimal website experience, ASCO utilizes cookies and similar technologies such as web beacons/pixels for a multitude of purposes, including site functionality, displaying personalized and recommended content, and the collection of analytics to help improve how our customers engage with us. Clicking "Accept All" allows you to access all features of this website. For more information, see our [Privacy Policy](#). Use of our website represents your acceptance of our [Terms of Use](#).

Settings

Reject All

Accept All