

Navigation Programmes for Older Patients with Cancer in Europe – preliminary Results of the EU NAVIGATE Project

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Introduction: Patient navigation (PN) is defined as an intervention designed to help patients overcome the logistical and personal barriers that prevent them from accessing healthcare services.

Methods: Our aim was to identify Cancer Patient Navigation Programmes (CPNPs) in European countries, based on a scoping review of scientific literature from the following databases: PubMed, EBSCO and Web of Science from 1993 to 2023, as well as a mapping study conducted via an online survey sent to experts.

Results: A total of 151 articles were retrieved from 3,367 articles in total (685 from CINAHL, 1,815 from PubMed and 867 from Web of Science), as well as 15 articles from an additional 45 grey literature records. Of these, only 23 described navigation interventions in European countries: Belgium (1), Denmark (4), Finland (1), France (5), Germany (1), Hungary (1), the Netherlands (3), Sweden (1) and Turkey (1), the United Kingdom (5).

They covered: cancer screening (7), diagnosis (6), treatment (12), rehabilitation or survivorship (5). Specific training in cancer patient navigation was provided by 79% of CPNPs. 58% of navigators were nurses. 54% of CPNPs were found to be effective, but the variety of effectiveness measures used did not allow for comparisons of them.

The mapping survey – 41 respondents from 21 European countries provided information about the CPNPs.

Figure 1. Stage of cancer care the CPNP are focused on (N=41)

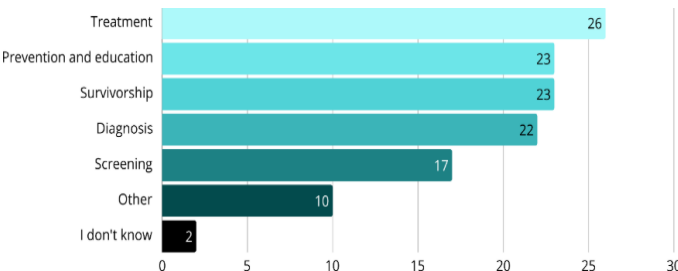


Figure 2. Main focus areas of cancer patient navigation programmes (N=41)

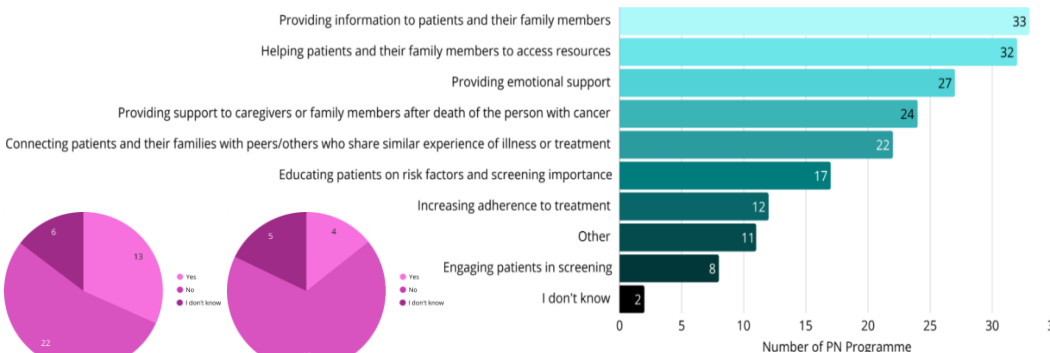


Figure 3. Accessibility and visibility of CPNPs (N=41)

Conclusions: The study shows variability of CPNPs, but also low accessibility and visibility of them, as well as underuse of intervention evaluation models in European countries.