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Psychosocial interventions for families with parental cancer and barriers and facilitators to implementation and use: a systematic review

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Citation

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Review question(s)

The aim of this review is to systematically search studies on psychosocial interventions for families with minor children affected by parental cancer.

The second aim of this review is to identify barriers and facilitators to using psychosocial interventions for these families

Searches

The following data bases will be searched:

- MEDLINE
- EMBASE
- PsycINFO
- PSYINDEX
- CINAHL

The search strategies will be adjusted to match each data base. There will be no restrictions regarding publication year. Journal articles in English and German will be included. Searches will be limited to human subjects. Additionally hand searches of references of relevant papers will be conducted.

Types of study to be included

Anticipating that there will be few studies reporting barriers to and facilitators for use of psychosocial support service in this population there are no restrictions on the type of study design.

Condition or domain being studied

The review focuses on psychosocial interventions for families with minor children affected by parental cancer and possible barriers and facilitators for using those.

Participants/ population

Studies will be included if they focus on any kind of psychosocial support services for families affected by parental cancer. Barriers and facilitators can be assessed by experts or therapists or be reported by patients/families themselves. No restrictions are made concerning the type of cancer, cancer stage or type of intervention (counseling, family-therapy, group or single setting).

Studies will be excluded if they focus on medical treatment; families with adult children or childhood cancer are addressed.

Intervention(s), exposure(s)

Studies will be included if the support services are child-focused, family-focused or parent-focused and should target families with minor children and one or both parent(s) diagnosed with cancer. Couple interventions are only included if they focus on parenting themes.

Studies will be excluded if they focus on interventions regarding partnership, on health-oriented interventions (e.g. sun protection, cancer screening) or on other non-psychosocial interventions.

Comparator(s)/ control

Not applicable.

Outcome(s)

Primary outcomes

Psychosocial interventions and barriers and facilitator to using those

Secondary outcomes

None

Data extraction, (selection and coding)

Titles and abstracts will be screened to identify studies that potentially meet the scope of our study and the inclusion criteria. The retrieved full texts will be assessed for eligibility independently by two review authors. Disagreement will be solved by consent after discussion.

References of included studies will be hand-searched to identify further relevant studies. Data extraction will be conducted with the help of a form developed for this study on basis on former extraction forms. To assure the form is appropriate to extract the information pilot testing will be conducted. Extraction will be performed by two members of our research team. Again differences will be resolved by consent after discussion.

Following information will be extracted:

- a) Authors
- b) Year
- c) Country
- d) Method
- e) Kind of Intervention/Support service
- f) Theoretical framework of intervention/support service
- g) Effects of Intervention
- h) Sample characteristics and sample size
- i) Barriers to intervention/support service
- j) Facilitators for using intervention/support service

Risk of bias (quality) assessment

Retrieved full texts will be assessed by two independent reviewers for methodological quality. The Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) designed for reviews including qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods studies will be used to appraise the quality of included studies (Pluye & Hong, 2014).

Strategy for data synthesis

Data synthesis will be conducted by combining two syntheses (quantitative and qualitative) and performing a third synthesis (Harden, 2010). Assuming that data are heterogeneous for the first synthesis (quantitative studies) a narrative approach is proposed to summarize the findings (Dixon-Woods et al., 2005). In the second synthesis thematic analysis will be used to synthesize the findings of qualitative studies (Mays, Pope & Popay, 2005). Finally a third synthesis will be carried out to integrate the findings of qualitative and quantitative studies.

Analysis of subgroups or subsets

None planned.

Contact details for further information

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Anticipated or actual start date

01 June 2014

Anticipated completion date

30 November 2015

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Conflicts of interest

None known

Language

English

Country

Germany

Subject index terms status

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

Subject index terms

Adaptation, Psychological; Child; Humans; Neoplasms; Social Support

Stage of review

Ongoing

Date of registration in PROSPERO

26 August 2014

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Stage of review at time of this submission

Preliminary searches

Started

Yes

Completed

Yes

Piloting of the study selection process

Yes

Yes

Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria

Yes

Yes

Data extraction

Yes

Yes

Risk of bias (quality) assessment

Yes

Yes

Data analysis

Yes

Yes

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