

INSIGHTS INTO CANCER PATIENT EDUCATION: A CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION PREFERENCES AT A TERTIARY CARE CANCER CENTRE IN PAKISTAN

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OBJECTIVE

Providing timely, accurate, and patient-centered information is an essential component of comprehensive cancer care. Adequate information enables patients to understand their diagnosis, participate in shared decision-making, manage treatment-related challenges, and cope with the physical and psychosocial consequences of cancer. Identifying patients' informational satisfaction and unmet information needs is therefore fundamental to improving patient-centered oncology services. However, evidence regarding these aspects among cancer patients in Pakistan remains limited. This study was done to assess cancer patients' satisfaction with the information received during treatment and to identify their unmet informational needs at a tertiary care cancer in Pakistan.

METHODS

A cross-sectional study was conducted among 321 adult cancer patients receiving treatment at a tertiary care cancer hospital in Lahore, Pakistan. Participants completed a structured questionnaire comprising demographic characteristics, a 9-item Cancer Information Satisfaction (CIS) scale, and a 23-item Cancer Information Needs (CIN) scale. Internal consistency was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize participant characteristics and questionnaire responses, while multiple linear regression analyses were performed to identify demographic predictors of CIS and CIN scores. Statistical significance was set at $p \leq 0.05$.

RESULTS

The mean age of participants was 40.32 ± 12.54 years, and 60.1% were female. The CIS and CIN scales demonstrated acceptable to excellent internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.779$ and 0.906 , respectively). The mean CIS score was 34.01 ± 7.54 (range: 9–45), indicating an overall satisfactory level of information received. However, participants reported substantial unmet informational needs, with a mean CIN score of 103.38 ± 10.84 (range: 36–115).

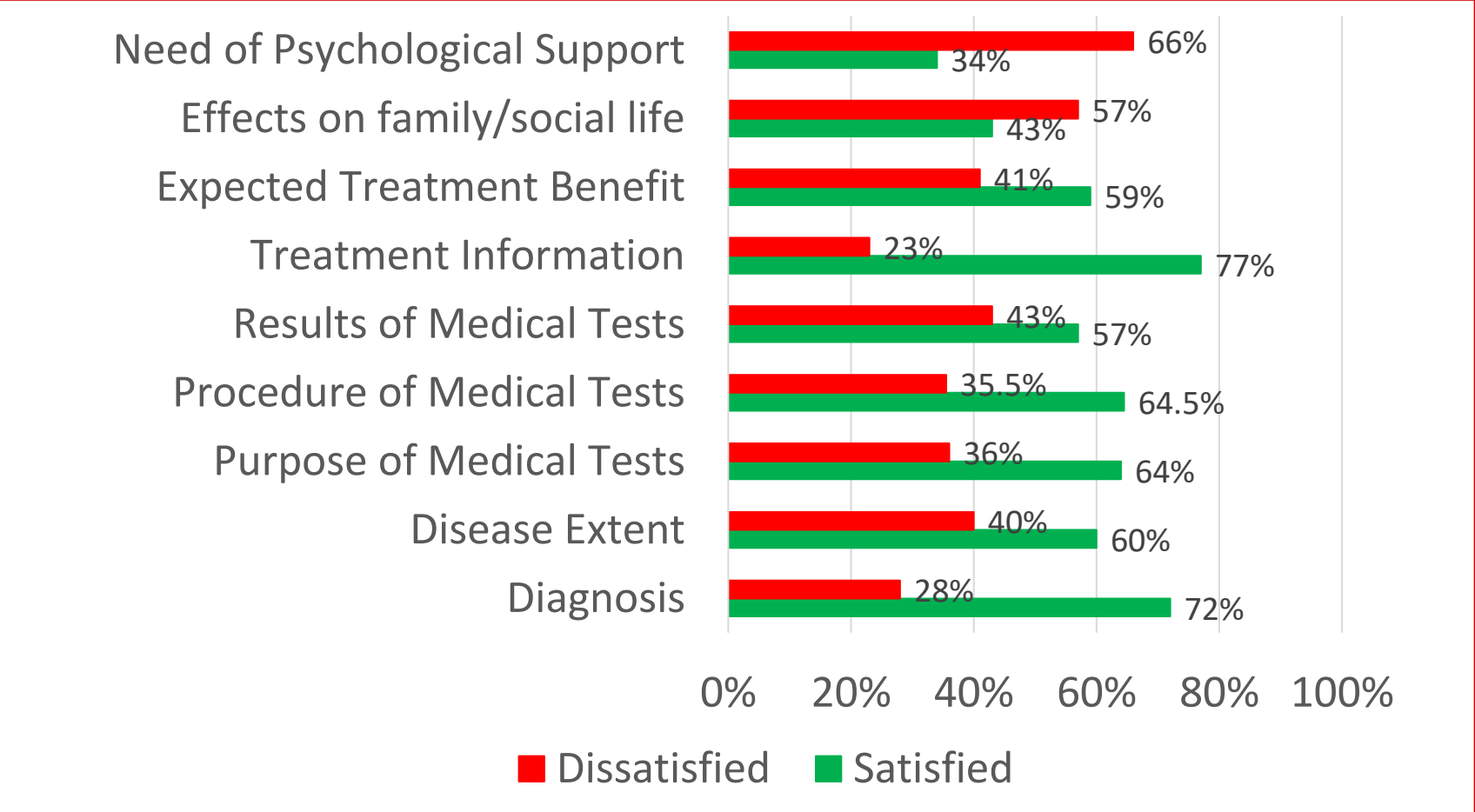
CONCLUSION

Although patients reported satisfactory information regarding diagnosis and treatment, considerable unmet informational needs persisted, particularly in psychosocial support, self-care, lifestyle guidance, and financial information. Developing tailored educational interventions that address these gaps may enhance patient-centered cancer care, improve patient experiences, and facilitate informed decision-making throughout the cancer journey.

TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Variable	n	%
Age, Mean $\pm$ SD	40.32 $\pm$ 12.54	
Male	128	40
Female	193	60
Single	58	18
Married	263	82
Illiterate	35	11
School education	135	42
College education	151	47
Unemployed	247	77
Employed	74	23
Punjab	268	84
Breast cancer	110	34
Lymphoma	49	15
Colon/Rectal cancer	36	11

SATISFACTION WITH PROVIDED INFORMATION



INFORMATION NEEDS

