Factors Influencing Health Information-Seeking Behavior of Jordanian Patients With Cancer
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BACKGROUND

**Significance:**
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Jordan.
- Many patients have limited knowledge about cancer, a disease with many challenges.
- Patients with cancer engage in health information-seeking behavior to meet their needs.

**Methods:**
- A pilot study evaluating Internet use among Jordanian patients with cancer showed that many are not seeking health information from any sources.

**Purpose:**
- To assess the factors that influence the health information-seeking behavior of Jordanian Muslim patients with cancer.

**Theoretical Framework:**


METHODS

**Design:**
Descriptive, correlation design

**Setting:**
Inpatient & outpatient cancer treatment settings (Al-Bashir, Islamic, Jordan, Jordan University, King Abdullah, & King Hussein cancer hospitals, & clinics) in Jordan

**Sample:**
Convenience sample of adult (18 years and older) Jordanian males and females, Muslim, with various types of cancer, in different disease stages and undergoing different treatments.

**Inclusion criteria:**
- Being able to read and understand English
- Being mentally and physically able to participate

**Instruments:**
- Survey questionnaire included:
  - Person-related variables (gender, age, & education)
  - Situation-related variables (type of cancer, stage, & treatment)
  - Scale developed by the researcher measuring attitude (10 items) and subjective norms (10 items)
- A modified questionnaire (22 items) from the Information Style Questionnaire
- Scale developed by the researcher to assess cancer patients' health information needs
- A modified form of Miller Behavior Style Scale (Miller, 1987) to assess cancer patients' health information-seeking behavior
- A modified form of Health Information Nationally Trends Survey (HINTS) (Nelson et al., 2004) to identify seekers & avoiders, channels used & barriers

**Analysis:**
Descriptive & Multiple regression analyses

RESULTS

**Participants (N = 150)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>41.58 (12.99)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>73 (48.7)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>123 (82.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Level</td>
<td>6 (4.0)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage of Cancer</td>
<td>41 (27.3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage of Disease</td>
<td>38 (25.3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Needs (Yrs)</td>
<td>8 (5.27)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Information Needs</td>
<td>10 (6.7)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participant Health Information Preferences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>65 (43.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>73 (48.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>123 (82.0)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Channels Used**

- 65 participants (43.3%) cited health care providers as their source for health information.
- 2 (1.4%) were avoiders.
- Patients sought health information when they were in need, faced fewer barriers, and perceived rejection of their behavior from their health care providers.

**Health Information Needs**

- Health information needs were related to disease, diagnostic procedures, treatment, side effects, and daily living.
- 80 participants (53.3%) perceived their health information needs high, while 61 (40.7%) perceived their needs as low.
- Participants rated the three highest health information needs as: "strong agreement" as likelihood of a cure (n = 114, 76.0%), treatment duration (n = 112, 74.7%), treatment side effects and their management (n = 100, 70.0%).
- 9 participants (19.3%) rated the lowest "strong agreement" as health information about survival rate.

**Attitude Towards Health Information-Seeking Behavior**

- 82 participants (54.7%) positively perceived that health information-seeking behavior was valuable.
- 63 participants (40.7%) perceived that health information-seeking behavior helped them control their new situations.
- 45 participants (29.3%) positively perceived that health information-seeking behavior reduced anxiety.

**Subjective Norms Regarding Health Information-Seeking Behavior**

- 95 participants (63.3%) perceived that their religious beliefs encouraged health information-seeking behavior.
- 5 participants (3.3%) perceived that their religious beliefs discouraged health information-seeking behavior.

**CONCLUSION & IMPLICATIONS**

- There are several factors that influence health information-seeking behavior of Jordanian Muslim patients with cancer.
- Further research is needed to refine the attitude and subjective norm scales in order to better understand health information-seeking behavior of Jordanian Muslim patients with cancer.
- Future studies should address the outcomes of health information-seeking behavior.