

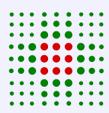
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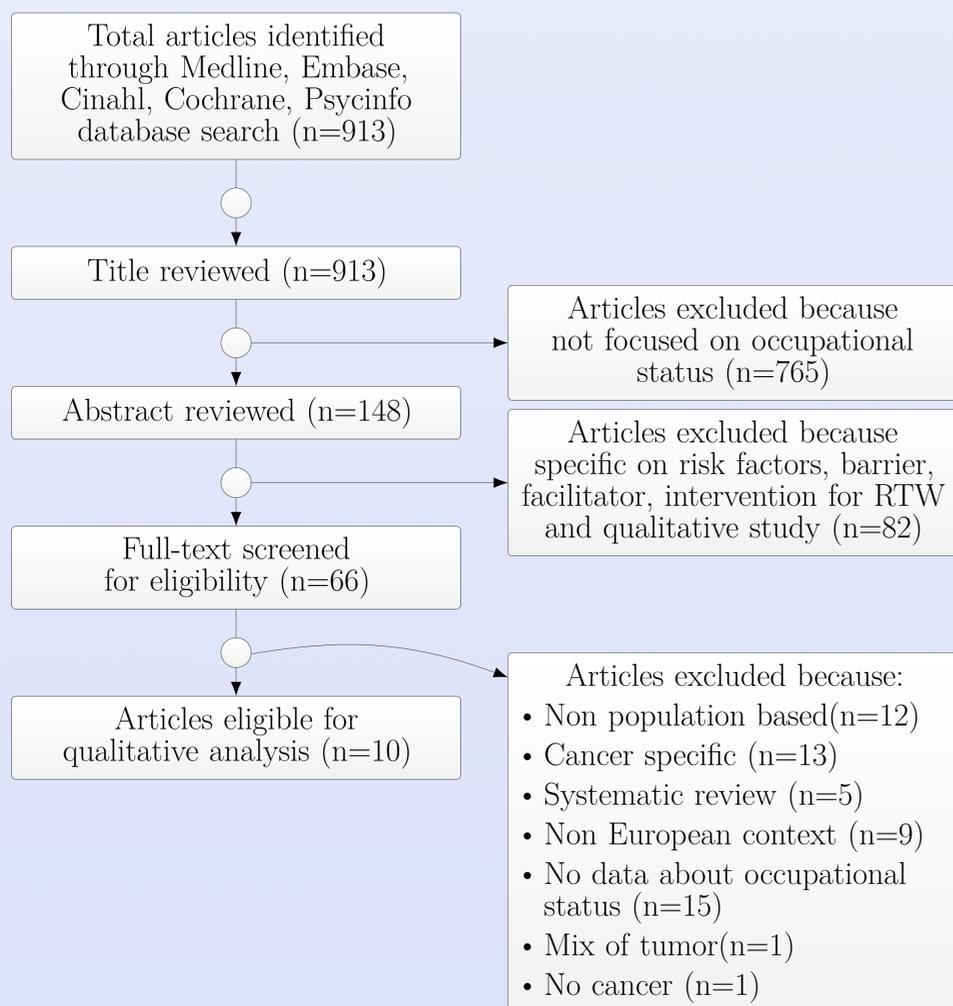
Sara Paltrinieri¹, Stefania Fugazzaro¹, Elisa Mazzini¹, Martina Pellegrini¹, Chiara Bassi¹, Claudio Tedeschi¹, Stefania Costi^{1,2}

¹ Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova-IRCCS, Reggio Emilia, Italy; ² University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

Introduction

Countries with an high development index are experiencing increase in both life expectation and in working age. This features will bring aged people with chronic disease, including cancer, in the workforce. Epidemiologic data show that approximately half of the new diagnosis and more than 1/3 of cancer survivors are people between 15 and 64 years [1]. Return to work (RTW) is a significant issue in this population because it might help to maintain or restore a satisfactory health status, to preserve social participation and social role, to restore self-perception of own identity and also to increase quality of life. Additionally, RTW has relevant direct negative effects on the social cost supported by Health Services, patients and families. In Italy, the socio-economic influence of loss of productivity due to cancer related consequences, was estimated in more than 8 billions of impact on the employing companies [2]. For this reason, we conducted this systematic review of the literature with the aim to investigate the employment status in European cancer survivors.

Figure 1 Flow chart showing inclusion/exclusion of individual articles for systematic review



CASP Qualitative Analysis Application of the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP)

study	yes	can't tell	no
K. Luker et al, 2013.	★★★★	★	★★★★
P. Marino et al, 2013.	★★★★★★★★		
A. Paraponaris et al, 2010.	★★★★★★★★	★	
C. A. M. Roelen et al, 2011.	★★★★★	★	★★★
C. A. M. Roelen et al, 2011.	★★★★★★	★★	★
Lone Ross et al,2012.	★★★★★★★★	★	
Steffen Torp et al, 2011.	★★★★★★	★★	
Steffen Torp et al, 2011.	★★★★★★	★★	
M.L. Lindbohm et al, 2011.	★★★★★★★★		
C.A. Roelen et al, 2011.	★★★★★	★	★★★

Results

Ten studies met the inclusion criteria. Employment rate accounted for a minimum of 60% up to a maximum of 84% after an average of 2 years post-diagnosis. Studies were conducted in Northern Europe countries, United Kingdom and France. None of them was conducted in the South of Europe. Socio-demographic factors (i.e. age, gender, level of education, living with a partner, etc.), work-related factors (i.e. type of occupation, work contract, hours worked, average monthly income, etc.) and health-related factors (i.e. tumor type, prognosis, treatment, side effects, etc.) might promote or limit RTW process to a various extent.

Conclusions

RTW is crucial for well-being of a growing population of cancer survivors in their working age. High development index countries should promote interventions sustaining higher rates of employment in this population. These interventions might focus on a wide range of factors associated to RTW. Southern Europe countries should firstly investigate the effects of cancer on employment rate in their contexts.

Bibliography

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[2] Fondazione "Insieme contro il Cancro" (2014) Il sistema della prevenzione, dell'assistenza e della ricerca oncologica in Italia, Roma.