

Peer Review

Review of: "The Perception of Nurse Case Care Managers about the Needs of Cancer Patients"

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This qualitative research explores the perceptions of Nurse Case Care Managers (NCCMs) regarding the unmet needs of cancer patients and their families, addressing an important and clinically relevant topic in oncology care coordination. The study contributes to the growing body of literature emphasizing holistic patient-centered care and highlights the critical role of care coordination professionals in identifying psychosocial, informational, and organizational care gaps. The use of thematic analysis based on the Braun and Clarke framework and adherence to COREQ reporting guidelines represents a notable methodological strength and enhances the transparency of the qualitative research process.

The study provides valuable insights into the multidimensional needs of cancer patients, particularly emotional, informational, and social support requirements. The inclusion of professionals working across multiple oncology settings strengthens the contextual richness of the findings and offers a practical perspective on care pathway management. The detailed description of NCCM roles, including their involvement in care coordination, communication facilitation, and continuity of care, adds meaningful professional relevance to the manuscript. Furthermore, the integration of verbatim interview quotations effectively supports thematic findings and improves the credibility and authenticity of the qualitative data.

Despite these strengths, several methodological limitations reduce the overall rigor and transferability of the findings. The use of convenience sampling introduces potential selection bias and may have resulted in the recruitment of highly motivated or particularly engaged professionals, potentially limiting the representation of broader NCCM perspectives. The relatively small sample size and geographic restriction to specific Italian regions further limit generalizability to other healthcare systems and cultural contexts.

The study would benefit from greater detail regarding reflexivity and researcher positionality, including how researchers' professional backgrounds and prior beliefs may have influenced data interpretation. Additionally, while thematic saturation is reported, clearer documentation of how saturation was operationally determined would strengthen methodological transparency. The absence of participant validation (member checking) also represents a limitation, as it reduces opportunities to confirm the interpretive accuracy of the themes.

From an analytical standpoint, the manuscript could provide a deeper exploration of potential discrepancies between professionals' perceptions and patients' self-reported needs. Including triangulation with patient or caregiver perspectives would significantly enhance the comprehensiveness and clinical applicability of the findings. Moreover, while the discussion effectively highlights the importance of NCCM roles, it could further elaborate on specific organizational or policy implications that may facilitate the implementation of structured care coordination models.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.