

Background

- The incidence of cancer is increasing at an unprecedented rate in Saudi Arabia (1), making it a major public health concern. The cost of pharmaceutical products is constantly increasing, and there are many factors that need to be considered when negotiating oncology treatments. Cancer patients face physical, psychological, social, and economic challenges, all of which can impact quality of life (QoL).(2)

Objectives

- The objective of this study was to explore the status of quality of life in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for patients with cancer.

Methods and Materials

- A systematic review was conducted of observational studies published in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 2000 to March 2023. A preset inclusion criteria was established based on the recommendation guide from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) created by the Evidence-based Practice Centers in the United States. A word frequency analyser tool developed by Bond University was used to report the results. Two independent interns conducted the analysis, and any disputes were investigated and resolved by a third reviewer.

Results

Table 1: Summary of the reviewed articles

#	Final Articles	Year	City	Cancer type	# of patients	Treatment type
1	Imran, M., Al-Wassia, R., Al-Saati, BA, et al.	2019	Jeddah	Breast cancer	284	surgery (conservative breast surgery or mastectomy), chemotherapy, hormone therapy, and radiotherapy
2	AlJaffar, MA., Enani, SS., Alosaimi, FD., et al.	2023	Riyadh	Breast cancer, Colon cancer (CRC),and lymphoma	276	chemotherapy, biological treatment, Radiotherapy, Surgery, Hormonal therapy
3	Ahmed, A., Alharbi, AG., Jazieh, AR., et al.	2022	Riyadh	Breast cancer	145	Cancer surgery, Chemotherapy, Radiation therapy, Immunotherapy, Antibodies.
4	Shaikh, SHA., Sofar, SM., Sofar, SM., et al.	2018	Makkah	Breast cancer	122	Chemotherapy
5	Hind Abdulaziz Al-Hoqail*, Mohammed T. A. Omar ^{1,2} , Maha Mohammed Al-Marwanil and Einas Soliman Al-EisaI	2022	Riyadh	Breast cancer	51	Surgeries, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy
6	Mohammed Yousef Alyousef, Mohammed Khaled Ghandour, Mohammed Al-Mohawes, Mosaad Alnwaisir, Tahera Islam, Khalid Al Qahmani	2022	Riyadh	Thyroid cancer	211	post-operative adjuvant radioactive iodine ablation therapy or radical external beam radiotherapy, surgery (thyroidectomy or hemithyroidectomy)
7	Nabil Alsafadi, Mohammed Alqarni, Meshari Attar, Rayan Mgarry, Abdulhameed Bokhari	2020	Jeddah	Nasopharyngeal cancer	107	radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery
8	Naïla A. Shaheen, Maha Alqahtani, Nada S Alawbthani, Abin Thomas, and Ahmed Alaskar	2020	Riyadh	Multiple myeloma (MM)	62	Bortezomib
9	Ahmed ^{1,2} & Alaa S. Almuzaini ² & Mohannad A. Alsadhan ³ & Abdulrahman G. Alharbi ⁴ & Hanin S. Almuzaini ² & Yosra Z. Ali ⁵ & Abdul-Rahman Jazieh ⁵	2017	Riyadh	leukemia, lymphoma, colorectal, and other cancer type	438	Cancer surgery, Chemotherapy, Radiation therapy, Immunotherapy, Antibodies, antibiotics.
10	Nagwa A Ibrahim, Ingunn Bjornsdottir, Ashraf S Al Alwan, Per Hartvig Honore	2017	Riyadh	Different types of cancer	87	NCCN Guidelines, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery, and palliative care.
11	Alshehri, M., Alzamil, AF., Algarni, AM., et al	2020	Riyadh	Breast, colorectal, and thyroid cancers	178	surgical, hor Surgical, hormonal, chemotherapy

Table 2: A focus on European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Instrument

#	Instrument	Comment
1	Eortc Qlq-c30[1]	Assessing The Quality Of Life In A Cohort Of Breast Cancer Patients At The Oncology Department, and To Differentiate Qol Among Different Groups.
2	Eortc Qlq-c30[2]	Explore The Sociodemographic, Psychological, Clinical, Cultural, And Personal Factors That Could Affect The Overall Qol Of Cancer Patients.
3	Eortc Qlq-c30[5]	Aim Of This Study Was To Evaluate Evidence Of Reliability, Validity, And Responsiveness Of The Arabic Version Of The FACT-B + 4 Questionnaire Among Participants With Breast Cancer Related Lymphedema (BCRL) In Saudi Arabia
4	Eortc Qlq-c30[10]	To Highlight The Hrql Scale Scores For Saudi Patients With Different Types Of Cancer ,Outpatients Generally Had Somewhat Higher Scores As Compared To Hospitalized Patients.
5	Eortc Qlq-c30[11]	Women Had A Trend To Score Worse In All Domains But Only Statistically Significant In Dyspnea (P)

Conclusions

- Cancer patients face physical, psychological, social, and economic challenges, all of which can impact quality of life (QoL). The measurement of quality of life (QoL) can be an important tool for the comprehensive care of patients

