Increasing Food Insecurity in Adult Cancer Patients
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Background

• Food insecurity, defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, is an ongoing health care and public health concern in the United States.

• Food insecurity results in irregular household food supply, disordered eating patterns, and poor diet quality.

• Food insecurity is associated with a high probability of chronic disorders.

• There are few studies that have examined the prevalence of food insecurity in cancer patients and its impact on cancer-related health outcomes.

Purpose

• To examine trends in the proportion of U.S. adult cancer patients with food insecurity from 2003-2014.

Methods

DESIGN


SAMPLE

• Adults 20 years of age and older who reported having had at least 1 cancer diagnosis were included in the analysis.

DATA COLLECTION

• Food insecurity was measured at the household level with the 18-item U.S. Food Security Survey Module questions.

DATA ANALYSIS

• The number of adult cancer patients without food security were examined, with the results representing the U.S. population of adult cancer patients.

• SPSS Complex Sample software was used for statistical analysis.

Results

• The present analysis suggests an increasing trend of food insecurity in adult cancer patients.

• Further research is needed to determine the consequences of this increasing trend in the proportion of cancer patients with food insecurity in the U.S. and its consequences, especially regarding its impact on these patients’ quality of life.

Conclusions

• Food insecurity is an important public health concern worldwide.

• An estimated 821 million people in the world are undernourished and about 10% of the world population, 770 million people, are food insecure.

• Food insecurity is often associated with overweight and obesity, risk factors for many chronic disorders including cancer.

• Further research is needed to determine the prevalence of food insecurity in cancer patients worldwide, ways to decrease its prevalence, and its impact on cancer-related health outcomes.

Global Implications


