

Food Insecurity Among Patients with Cancer: Overview and Implications

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BACKGROUND

Nearly 1 in 4 cancer patients experience food insecurity. Food insecurity has been linked to negative cancer-related outcomes.

APPROACH

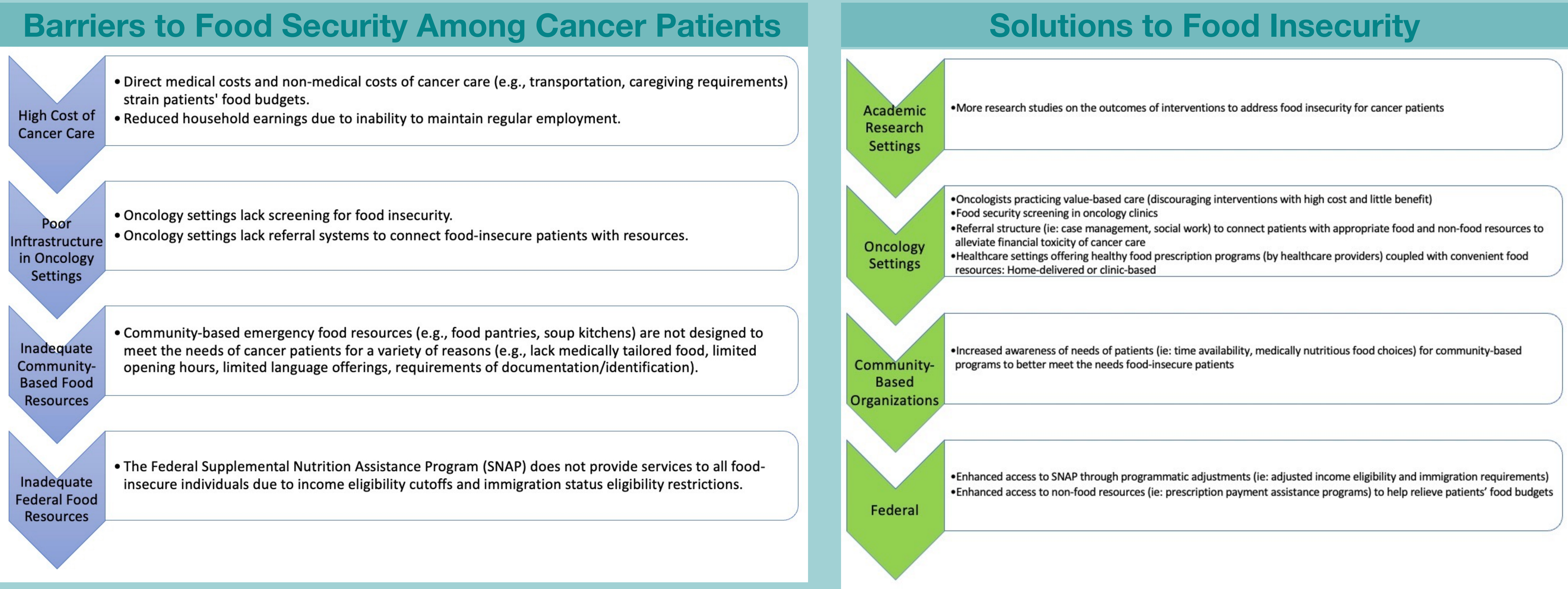
- Performed a literature review focusing on:
 - the prevalence of food insecurity among cancer patients
 - the impact of food insecurity on cancer outcomes
 - barriers to food security among patients with cancer
 - interventions to address food insecurity in healthcare/oncology settings
- Wrote a publishable commentary as a call to action to leaders in healthcare and policy.

RESULTS

- Food insecurity is associated with negative cancer-related outcomes: higher cancer mortality outcomes, lower cancer screening rates, worse cancer treatment adherence, and worse quality of life.
- Cancer patients face persistent barriers to food security that require a multifactorial solutions approach.
- Only one randomized controlled trial (RCT) to date has evaluated an intervention to address food insecurity for cancer patients.



Food insecurity has been linked to higher cancer mortality and worse quality of life measures for cancer patients.



REFERENCES

Statistic sentence: Source: Gany, F., Leng, J., Ramirez, J., Phillips, S., Aragones, A., Roberts, N., Mujawar, M. I., & Costas-Muniz, R. (2015). Health-Related Quality of Life of Food-Insecure Ethnic Minority Patients With Cancer. *Journal of Oncology Practice*, 11(5), 396–402. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JOP.2015.003962>. McDougall, J. A., Anderson, J., Adler Jaffe, S., Guest, D. D., Sussman, A. L., Meisner, A. L. W., Wiggins, C. L., Jimenez, E. Y., & Pankratz, V. S. (2020). Food Insecurity and Forgone Medical Care Among Cancer Survivors. *JCO Oncology Practice*, 16(9), e922–e932. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JOP.19.00736>.
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