



# Difference in symptom burden and distress among cancer patients undergoing antineoplastic treatment

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## INTRODUCTION

- Age may play an important role in the level of symptom burden and distress among cancer patients
- AIM: Assess differences in nutritional status, symptom burden, and distress among cancer patients in three predetermined age groups

## METHODS

### Design/participants

- Retrospective chart review (November 2013 – August 2019)
- Cancer patients undergoing cancer treatment

### Measures

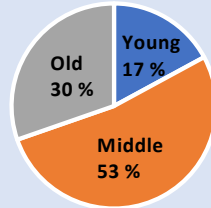
#### Questionnaires:

- Distress Thermometer (DT): Distress
- Canadian Problem Checklist (CPC): Contributing factors to distress
- Revised Edmonton Symptom Assessment System (ESAS-r): cancer symptoms
- Abridged Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (aPG-SGA): nutritional status

## RESULTS

### Descriptive statistics

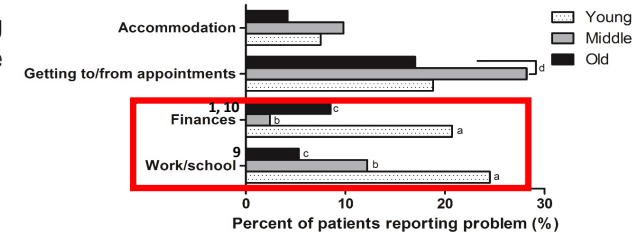
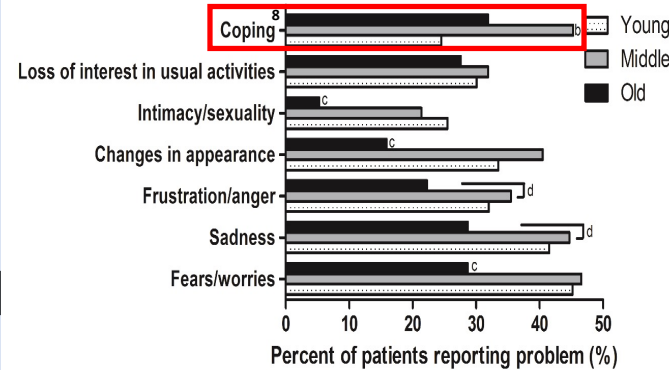
Group (Range)	Sample Size	Age (years)
Young (Y) (<50)	53	41.9±6.7
Middle (50 – 59)	163	60.2±5.4
Old (≥70)	94	75.7±4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>61.8±12.6</b>



### Summary of aPG-SGA, ESAS-r, and Distress Thermometer Results

	Young (Y)		Middle (M)		Old (O)		Significance
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
aPG-SGA	7.92	5.52	8.02	5.57	8.09	6.16	Y=M=O
ESAS-r fatigue	6.26	2.34	4.94	2.69	5.45	2.20	Y>M, O M=O
ESAS-r drowsiness	4.22	3.11	3.31	2.69	3.83	3.08	Y>M, O M=O
Distress thermometer <sup>6,7</sup>	4.56	2.70	3.88	2.70	3.35	2.81	Y>O M=Y, O

### Canadian Problem Checklist



Frequency of problem within age group reported. Young < 50 y (n=53); middle 50-69 y (n=163); old ≥ 70 y (n=94).

a: denotes young significantly different from middle and old  
b: denotes middle significantly different from young and old  
c: denotes old significantly different from young and middle  
d: denotes difference between age groups as indicated  
p < 0.05

## CONCLUSION

- Age plays an important role in selected cancer symptoms and distress<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>
- Health care professionals must be made aware of age-related differences in symptom burden and distress so that the most appropriate treatment can be given to cancer patients

## References

- <sup>1</sup>Pang et al., 2019; <sup>2</sup>Seretny et al., 2014; <sup>3</sup>Cohen et al., 2017; <sup>4</sup>Mohile et al., 2011; <sup>5</sup>Galenkamp et al., 2012; <sup>6</sup>Ganz, 1997; <sup>7</sup>Harrison & Maguire, 1995; <sup>8</sup>Rose et al., 2000; <sup>9</sup>Harrison & Maguire, 1995; <sup>10</sup>Shankaran et al., 2012