

Positive and negative impact of being diagnosed with lymphoma cancer as an adolescent or young adult

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Background

- In The Netherlands, over 2.700 adolescents and young adults (AYAs) are diagnosed with cancer.
- Cancer challenges AYAs' abilities to achieve developmental milestones, which was found to lead to stagnation in their development, high levels of distress and low QoL.
- Less is known about the positive and negative impact of cancer (IOC) on AYAs compared to adult cancer survivors.

Results

- 861 survivors responded (67%).
- 11% AYA (18-35 years at diagnosis), 59% adults (36-64 years) and 30% elderly (65-84 years).
- Generally, AYA cancer survivors experience a more positive impact compared to older survivors (Figure 1).
- Among AYAs: Females or survivors with elevated psychological distress scored significantly higher on negative IOC

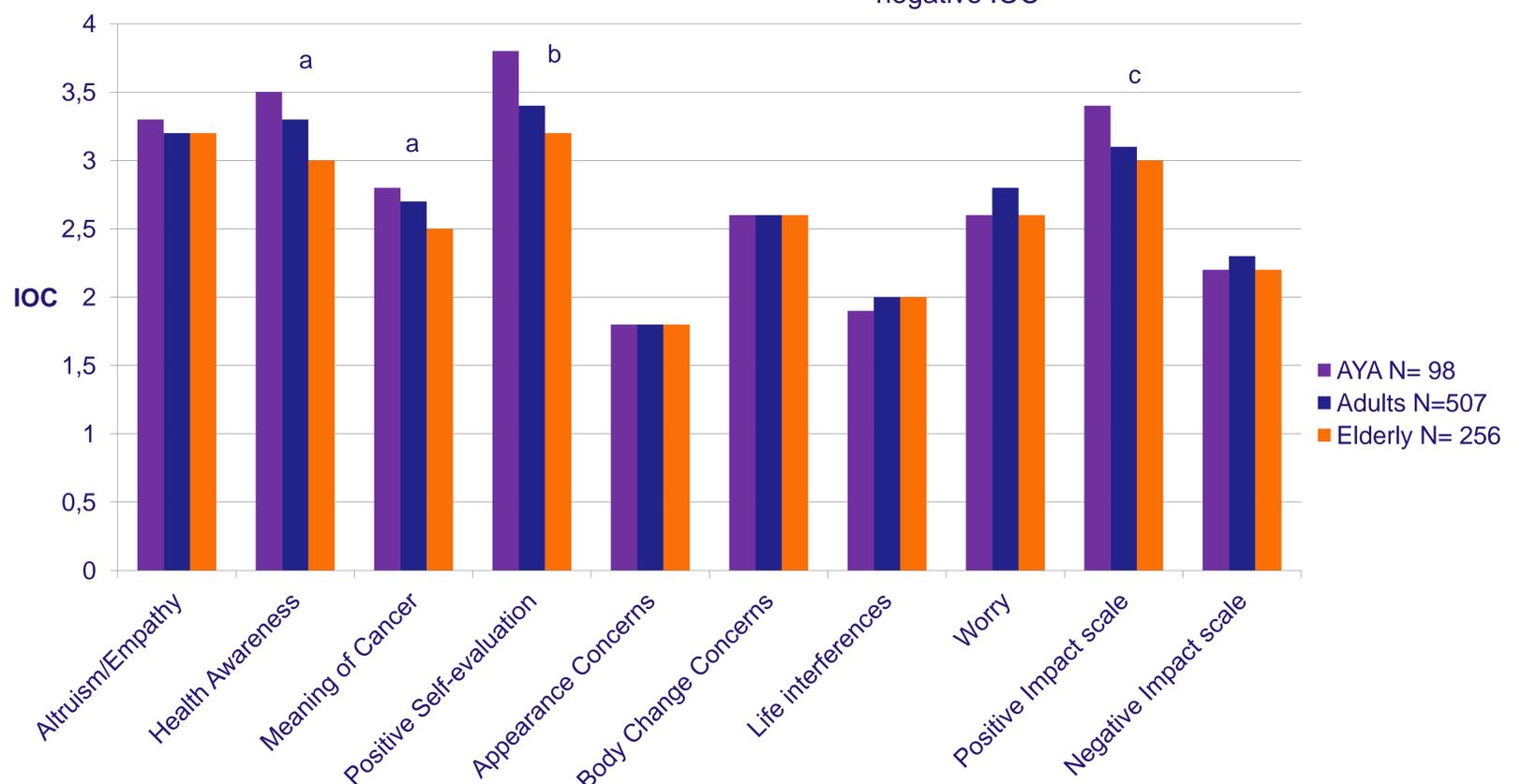


Figure 1: Comparison IOC scores between age groups; Significance: - a Between AYA and elderly and between adults and elderly; b Between AYA and adults and between AYA and elderly; c Between AYA and adults, between AYA and elderly and between adults and elderly

Aims

Examine:

- (1) differences between AYAs (18-35 years at diagnosis), adults (36-64 years at diagnosis) and the elderly (65-84 years at diagnosis) in perceived IOC;
- (2) associations between IOC and socio-demographic and clinical characteristics among AYAs;
- (3) association between IOC and QOL among AYAs.

Method

- The population-based Eindhoven Cancer Registry was used to select all patients diagnosed with (non-)Hodgkin lymphoma between 1999 and 2009.
- Patients (N= 1,281) were invited to complete the IOC, HADS, and EORTC QLQ-C30

- Negative Impact scale was negatively associated with all EORTC QLQ-C30 scales (betas ranging from -0.39 to -.063; $p < 0.05$),

- Positive Impact scale was negatively associated with 'Emotional functioning' (beta -0.24; $p < 0.05$), caused by high scores on IOC subscales 'Altruism/Empathy' and 'Health awareness'.

Conclusion

- AYA, adult and elderly (non-)Hodgkin lymphoma cancer survivors experienced different IOC.
- AYA lymphoma survivors at risk for negative IOC may require developmentally appropriate interventions, to address their specific concerns in order to improve long-term outcomes.

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AYA: young and cancer: how do you cope?