

The psychological experience of oncology patients secondary to a hypersensitivity reaction: A scoping review

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Background

Many common and effective anti-cancer drugs present the risk of hypersensitivity reactions. The severity of these reactions can range from mild to life threatening in nature, requiring time-critical and complex intervention. Due to the potential severity and oncological implications of reactions

Aim

The aim of this scoping review is to understand the oncology patients psychological experience during and following a hypersensitivity reaction and identify knowledge gaps.

Methodology

The scoping review was conducted following the Joanna Briggs Institute Reviewers' Manual. The search terms "hypersensitivity reaction" and "psychological experience" were used to search PubMed/Medline, PsychINFO, CINAHL, and The Cochrane Library databases. Included studies comprised primary research that focused on adult patients who have experienced a hypersensitivity reaction secondary to anti-cancer drug treatment for the treatment of a cancer diagnosis.

Only articles published from 2013 onwards were considered. Two reviewers independently screened titles and abstracts, full texts and completed data extraction.

Results

2163 publications were screened for potential inclusion. At the end of screening two (n=2) articles met inclusion criteria. Findings show that patients and healthcare workers report patients experiencing fear during the reaction, followed by anxiety, fear, dread and reluctance for future treatments, and fear of reaction recurrence.

Patients reported that negative emotions related to reactions were reduced with pre-infusion education and timely management if a reaction did occur.



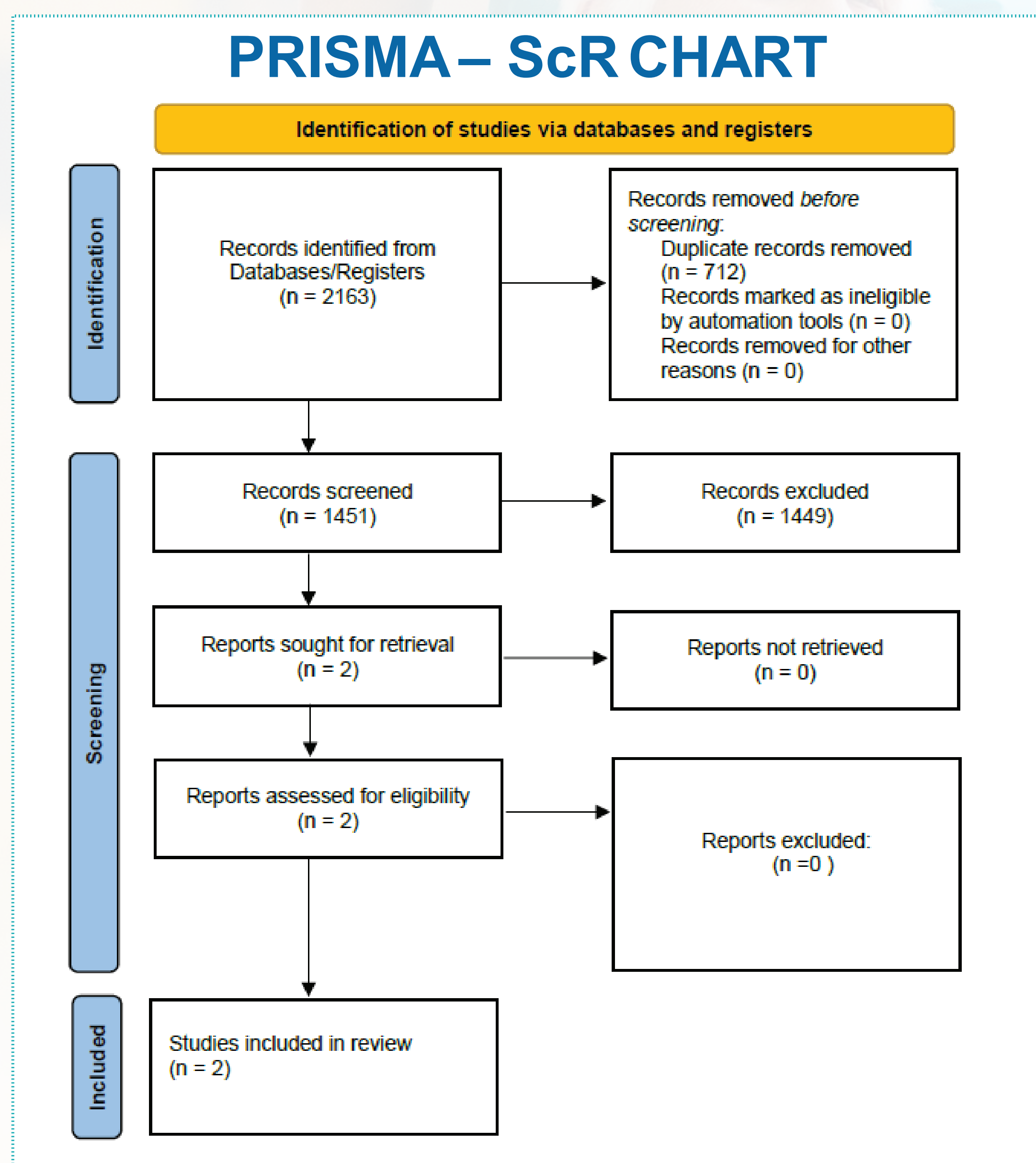
Conclusion & Next Steps

This scoping review demonstrates foundational knowledge exploring the psychological impacts of hypersensitivity reactions in oncology patients and sets a platform for future research.

Planned next steps following this scoping review are to conduct surveys and interviews with patients who have experienced a hypersensitivity reaction.

By gathering primary data related to the patients' psychological experience following a hypersensitivity reaction, a more in depth understanding of the impact will be revealed. This will facilitate the development of tools to create better experiences and outcomes for these patients.

PRISMA – ScR CHART



Included studies

- Bartlett, D., Childs, S., Breikopf, C., Grudem, M., Mitchell, J., Looker, S., Ridgeway, J., Lee, J., Butterfield, J., Weroha, S., & Jatoi, A. (2018). Chemotherapy Acute Infusion Reactions: A Qualitative Report of the Perspectives of Patients With Cancer. *American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine*, 35(11), 1384-1389. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909118773995>
- Chadda, S., Larkin, M., Jones, C., Skyes, D., Barber, B., Zhao, Z., Gao, S., & Bengtsson, N. (2013). The impact of infusion reactions associated with monoclonal antibodies in metastatic colorectal cancer: A European perspective. *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice*, 19(1), 38-47. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078155212451197>