Putting Together the Pieces of the Puzzle: Identifying Existing Evidence-Based Resources to Support the Cancer Caregiver

Melissa Matson, MSN, RN, AGPCNP-BC, OCN®, Lixin Song, RN, PhD, and Deborah K. Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN

Caring for the caregivers of patients with cancer is an increasingly important part of cancer care. In the past few years, several cancer centers have started caregiver-focused services and programs. However, the number of centers that offer such programs and what they provide is unclear. This article will review the extent to which the 61 National Cancer Institute–designated cancer centers that primarily provide patient care also offer evidence-based support programs for caregivers.

Methods

The authors identified a group of cancer centers that could represent the broader collective of cancer-focused institutions across the country. Sixty-eight institutions have been designated by the NCI as cancer centers (n = 27) and as comprehensive cancer centers (n = 41), and they are characterized by their demonstrated excellence in cutting-edge cancer research, training for future scientists and healthcare providers, state-of-the-art patient care, and public education about cancer prevention and screening.