Standard of Care for Psychological Assessment of Patients Undergoing Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

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BACKGROUND: Comprehensive care prior to allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (alloHSCT) can improve patient outcomes, yet psychological assessment prior to transplantation has been overlooked as a standard of care.

OBJECTIVES: This review summarizes the evidence on psychological assessment for patients undergoing alloHSCT and explores the impact of psychological distress and/or psychological disorders on clinical outcomes and overall survival.

METHODS: A literature search was conducted using PubMed®, CINAHL®, Embase®, and PsycINFO® for studies focused on psychological screening of patients in the alloHSCT population.

FINDINGS: alloHSCT is associated with patient psychological distress and disorders, which can result in negative outcomes such as poorer quality of life and overall survival. Future studies implementing a validated instrument for psychological assessment may allow for early identification of vulnerable patients undergoing alloHSCT and interventions, which may improve overall outcomes.

KEYWORDS
alloHSCT; psychological assessment; psychological distress; quality of life

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