

Changes in quality of life throughout the illness trajectory of older adults with cancer: a systematic review

Chelsea Vinckier, Kim de Nooijer, Tinne Smets, Helena Du Cheyne, Lore Decoster & Lieve Van den Block

Why this study?

Older adults with cancer often experience frailty and comorbidities, potentially impacting their quality of life. This review synthesized existing knowledge on quality-of-life changes in older adults with cancer throughout their illness trajectory, and explored associated individual, relational, community, and societal factors. This knowledge is crucial to set feasible expectations and goals in treatment, interventions and research.

Search string

- PubMed, Embase PsychINFO
- Older people (65+) with cancer
- Measuring (overall) quality of life at different timepoints

Synthesizing

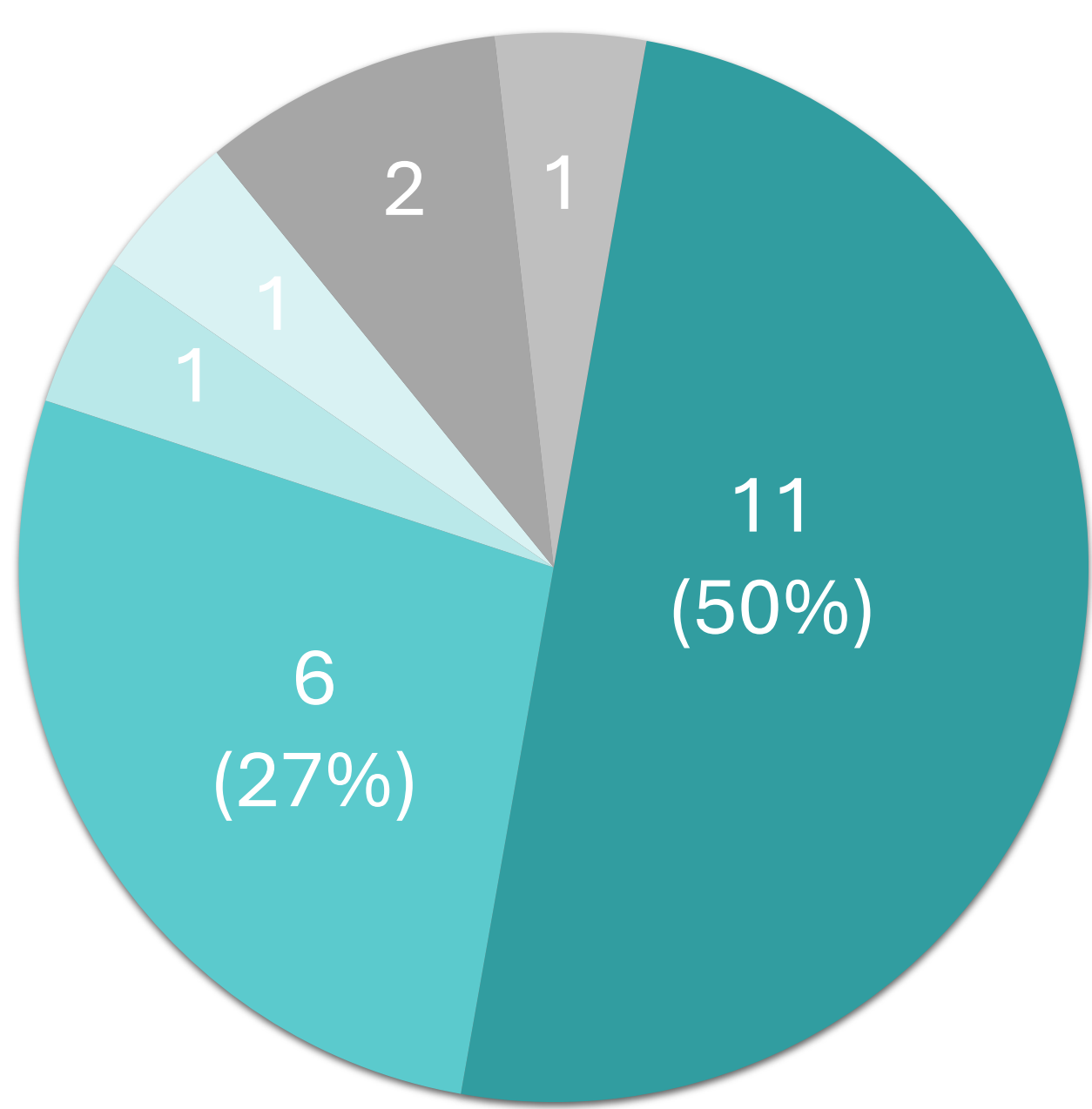
Synthesized conceptualization, operationalization, changes and factors associated with quality of life

Results

- 22 studies
- 21 quantitative, 1 mixed-method
- A lot of variation in population characteristics, timing of the measurements and a lack of conceptualization

Key messages

1. De EORTC-scales and MOS/RAND Short-Form were most used to measure quality of life.



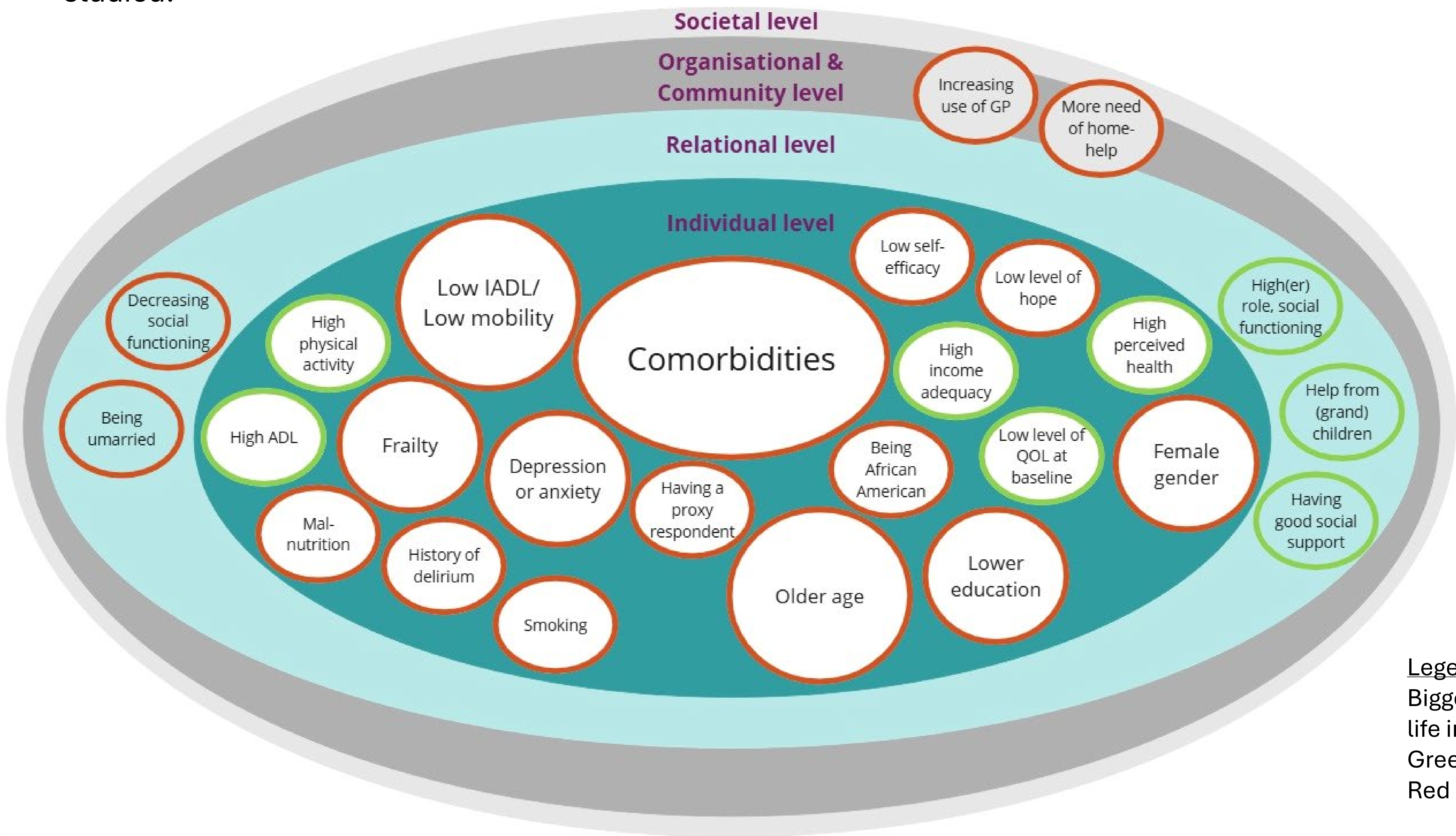
- EORTC scales
- RAND/MOS SF-36
- Control, Autonomy, Self-Realization and Pleasure12-scale
- QLACS
- FACT-G
- EQ-5D-3L

2. Quality of life remained stable in 8 of the 9 studies where patients had a follow-up of 12 months or more.

3. Quality of life declined in 5 studies during treatment, in 4 of these 5 the quality of life increased again afterwards.

4. The 3 studies measuring quality of life at the end of life, reported a declining quality of life scores.

5. Comorbidities, older age and mobility issues were most frequently associated with a decline in quality of life. Social factors were rarely studied. Factors associated with quality of life on an organizational/ community level were almost never to never studied.



Legend:
Bigger spheres = associated with quality of life in multiple studies
Green = associated with an increase
Red = associated with a decline

Full article:

