

Special Issue

Tobacco Use and Treatment among Cancer Survivors

Message from the Guest Editors

Helping patients to curb their tobacco use is an essential component of cancer care, as patients who continue to use tobacco have an increased risk of mortality, cancer recurrence, development of secondary cancers, exacerbation of comorbid conditions, worsened outcomes of cancer surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, and negative impacts on quality of life. Despite tremendous advancements in the science of tobacco cessation, insufficient research exists to demonstrate optimal approaches and outcomes of tobacco use treatment in patients with cancer, both in primary care and in oncology settings. While a diagnosis of cancer is an optimal time to assist patients who are still using tobacco products to quit, too many patients continue to smoke, and support for quitting is inconsistently applied. Recently, the National Cancer Institute in the US began offering funding to many comprehensive cancer centers to expand or initiate tobacco use treatment programs for patients with cancer who continue to smoke or use other forms of tobacco.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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