

July 2025 | ISSUE #45

Patient and Family Advisory Council

Cuthbert Lab & Oncology Outcomes

Welcome

You're Invited!



Real-World Evidence in Oncology Outcomes (RWE O2) Day

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

The Bow Tower, Calgary, AB
500 Centre St S, Calgary, AB T2G 0E3

In partnership with the 2025 POET Congress, this dynamic half-day event will bring together healthcare professionals from across Alberta to connect, learn, and shape the future of oncology care. RWE O2 Day is all about collaboration, cutting-edge data, and bold ideas. Through engaging presentations, thought-provoking panel discussions, and valuable networking opportunities, we'll explore how real-world evidence is transforming clinical practice, informing policy, and driving innovation in cancer care.

Registration is FREE for the half day event!

[Click here](#) to secure your spot today.

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Real World Evidence Study to Assess Incidence, Treatment Patterns, Clinical Outcomes, and Health Care Resource Utilization in Early-Stage, High-Risk HER2-Negative Breast Cancer in Alberta, Canada

STUDY PURPOSE

Data are needed to improve understanding of the epidemiology of patients with high-risk, HER2-negative, early breast cancer (eBC)

i.e. hormone receptor positive [HR+]/HER2-negative BC or triple-negative BC [TNBC]

Characterize the incidence, treatment patterns, overall survival (OS), and health care resource utilization (HCRU) in patients with high-risk, early-stage, HER2-negative breast cancer

Retrospective longitudinal cohort study

Using real-world, population-level data

Including all individuals diagnosed with high-risk, HER2-negative eBC

In Alberta, Canada

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE IMPACT

Patients with high-risk TNBC and high-risk HR+/HER2-negative who received adjuvant therapy had similar survival outcomes

Individuals with high-risk TNBC who received only neoadjuvant therapy had worse survival outcomes

New targeted therapies, (olaparib, pembrolizumab, abemaciclib)

New approaches, (early genetic testing)

Neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemo- and hormonal therapies (HR+),

Are used in practice to address the unmet needs and poorer OS reported in this high-risk population

HCRU remains greatest during the first year after diagnosis, with a decline thereafter

Newer therapies improve OS and reduce recurrences

This may inform institutions in allocating HCRU to early-stage breast cancer management

[Click here for full article.](#)

Cuthbert Lab

USE AND IMPACT OF VIRTUAL RESOURCES FOR PEER SUPPORT BY YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH CANCER ~A SYSTEMIC REVIEW~

Riley Martens, Mary Hou, Susan Isherwood, Alison Hunter-Smith, May-Lynn Quan, Colleen Cuthbert

PURPOSE

PREVIOUS RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS THAT YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER LACK SUFFICIENT TAILORED SUPPORTIVE CARE, RESULTING IN UNMET PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS.

THIS STUDY AIMED TO SYSTEMATICALLY REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE TYPES AND EFFICACY OF ONLINE PEER SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER.

RESULTS

OUT OF 2,773 INITIAL ARTICLES, 12 MET THE INCLUSION CRITERIA AND WERE ANALYZED.

6 STUDIES DEMONSTRATED CORRELATION BETWEEN ONLINE PEER SUPPORT AND IMPROVED WELLBEING OF PARTICIPANTS.

ONLINE PEER SUPPORT IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE THAT HELPS YOUNG CANCER PATIENTS COPE & CONNECT. FURTHER STANDARDIZED RESEARCH IS NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN THESE FINDINGS.



Study Recruitment

What is the study about?

Head and neck cancer (HNC) treatment is often associated with physical and psychosocial burdens.

➤ Your participation will be used to understand the views of participants when it comes to difficulties involved on social isolation and loneliness during HNC treatment

What is involved?

➤ Participate in an interview (**approximately 60 minutes**) to share your thoughts and views on social isolation and loneliness during cancer treatment

Who is eligible?

➤ Individuals diagnosed with HNC as an adult and had completed treatment for at least 1 year



This study has received ethics approval from the Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta HREBA.CC-24-0468

Contact us at laisrenata.cezariosa@ucalgary.ca to join!



Patient and Family Advisory Council ~Recruitment~



Recruitment for our PFAC will close at the end of July. We intend to review all applications during the month of August and invite new members to the Fall meeting (date TBD). Thank you so much to everyone who shared our recruitment information!



Coming Up



The next newsletter will release in August 2025.

Previous issues of the PFAC newsletter have been posted online:

<https://www.cuthbertlab.com/advisory-council>

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