Cancer Survivorship Care: Exploring an occupational participation perspective

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Introduction: The burden of cancer taking a form of a chronic illness warrants a shift in the health care delivery to address the many neglected functional impacts (physical-psychosocial and occupational dysfunctions) from cancer. Occupational-participation, a central construct in the field of Occupational Therapy, is the person’s engagement in work, play and daily living --necessary for health and well-being is under explore /used in cancer survivorship.

Objectives: This paper aims to highlight occupational-participation as an expansion of the international classification of functioning (ICF)'s concept of participation, to encapsulate a holistic approach for better functional outcomes and occupational wellbeing

Method: This paper reflect on the concept of occupation, occupational participation and explore how they can be use to make connection back to indefinite living after cancer.

Result: MOP.CS is timely approach for designing seamless intervention programs for the connection to a "healthy-although-ill" living for cancer survivors. Cancer survivors can be guided or reengineered/empowered toward healthy occupational-participation to attain a healthy, ‘health-after-cancer’ status via a model of ‘occupational-participation for cancer survivorship’ (MOP.CS).

Practice Implication: Balancing the current traditional medical care (that focuses on the tumour/illness), with the essential non-medical tasks of day-to-day participation and self-care tasks are both needed for cancer conditions that now requires care over indefinite period

Conclusion: A MOP.CS model to address the missing link in timely cancer as chronic illness care is one that focuses on occupational-participation - enabling survivors to live healthily after treatment.