

Associations between Gender, Perceived Vulnerability, and Social Coping when Facing Cancer-Related Stress

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Background:

- The cancer experience can be exhausting
- Coping – the way individuals mitigate internal and external demands related to a stressful situation
- Perceived vulnerability – the extent to which an individual views themselves as susceptible to a health issue
- Gender differences?
 - Defining gender
 - Masculine gender norms may explain gender differences
- Current research gaps which address:
 - Gender and social coping strategies in the context of cancer
 - The relationship between gender and perceived vulnerability to cancer

Hypotheses:

- Men will be less likely to use social coping strategies than women when facing cancer-related stress
- Men will be less likely to perceive themselves as vulnerable to cancer than women

Methods:

- Secondary analysis
- N = 52
 - 24 male, 28 female
- Instrumentation
 - Perceptions of Vulnerability Scale (PVS)
 - How I Coped Under Pressure Scale (HICUPS)
- SPSS for analyses

Are men less likely than women to seek out social support when facing cancer-related stress?

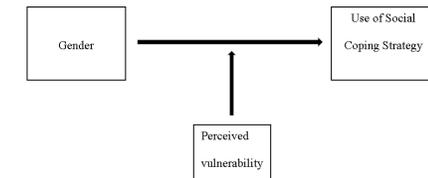


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Research Goals: To test whether perceived vulnerability moderates the relationship between gender and coping strategies when facing cancer-related stress

Statistical Analyses:

- “IV” = gender
- DV = use of social coping strategy
- Moderator = perceived vulnerability



Implications :

- Developing programs which highlight men’s mental health in the context of cancer
- Challenging traditional gender norms to decrease mental health stigma among men
- What about genders apart from the gender binary?

References:

- Kachel, S., Steffens, M. C., & Niedlich, C. (2016). Traditional masculinity and femininity: Validation of a new scale assessing gender roles. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00956>
- Karnad, M. (2001). Gender differences in coping with chronic illness. *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. <https://dc.etsu.edu/etd/137>