

Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Cancer Care: Challenges and Solutions

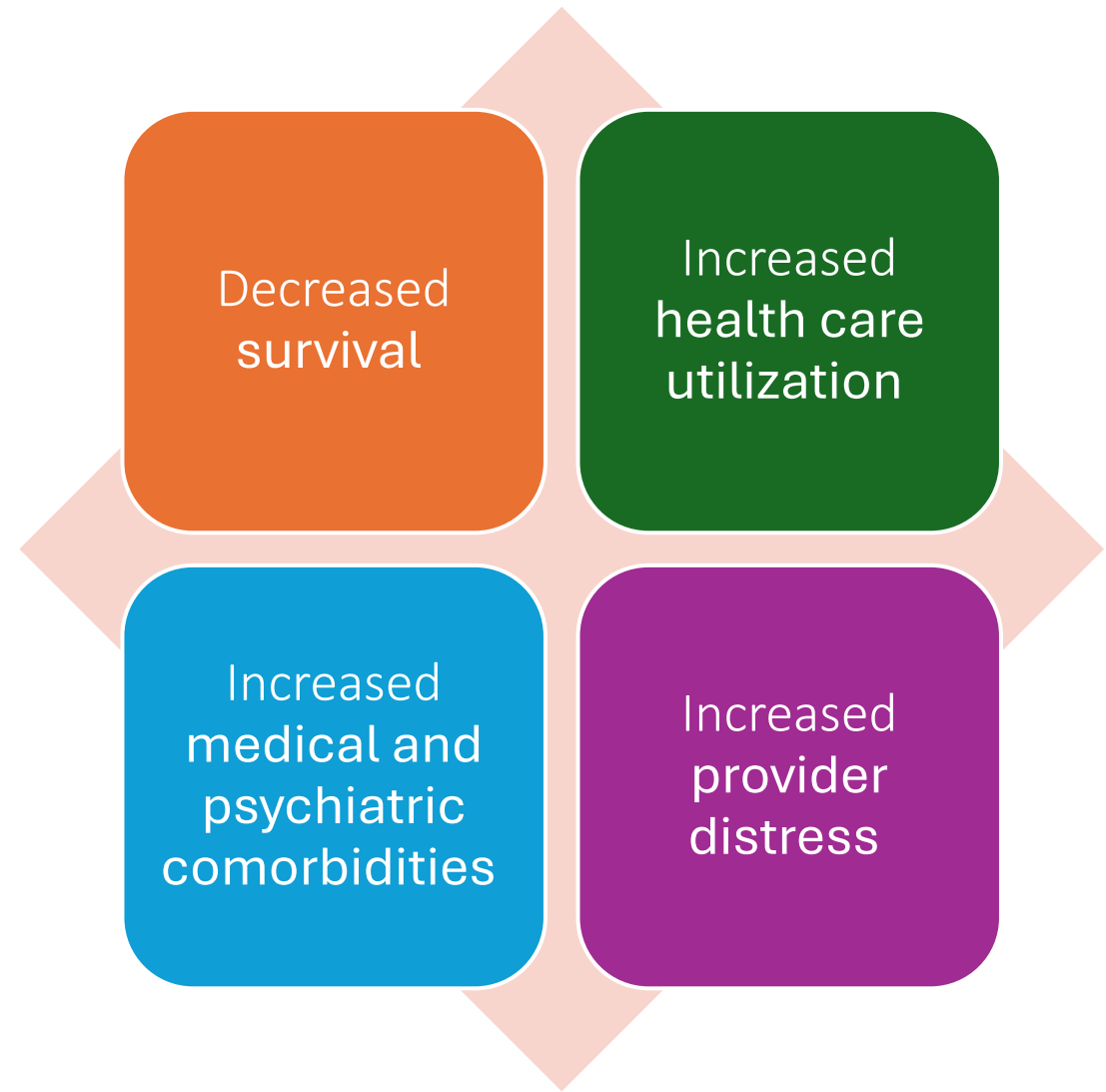
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My Story

- Consult-Liaison Psychiatrist
- Psychiatric consultant in inpatient medical wards & outpatient cancer clinic
- Significant negative impact of substance use disorders



SUDs in
cancer care
associated
with:



Cancer Dx Increases Risk of new or relapsed SUD

Financial, relationship &
existential stress

New mental health concerns

Access to opioids & benzos

Pain

Challenges

- Pts with limited insight and/or decline SUD treatment
- SUD presents with maladaptive behaviors
- Comorbid complexities
- May not follow our recommendations

Opportunities

- Cancer brings people to health care
- Cancer diagnosis is a motivator for change
- Cancer increases social connectedness
- More resources available

Successes

- Young woman with AML and OUD--> in recovery for transplant
- Middle aged man with AUD and brain tumor --> in recovery for end of life
- Older man with OUD & Meth use with GI cancer --> in recovery for pain control & family
- Recovery is not the only meaningful outcome



Solutions:

- Standardized screenings
- Access to SUD care
 - Specialty care
 - Collaborative
 - Within oncology care
 - Increased education
- Willingness to talk with patients
 - nonjudgmentally
- Flexibility
- Clear consistent limits
- Involving social supports

