

Study and country of origin	Aim of the study	Main findings and conclusions	Translational value in COVID-19 pandemic context
Henry et al. 2020 Canada	To identify supportive care needs of patients with head and neck cancer immediately post-treatment, finding early predictors of unmet needs, and contrasting how immediate post-treatment needs differed from needs in longer-term survivorship.	Immediately post-treatment, patients needed	Highlights the range of supportive care needs of head and neck cancer survivors along cancer survivorship trajectory immediate post treatment vs long-term survival.
Bossie et al. 2019 Italy	To highlight the importance of pain symptom assessment among head and neck cancer survivors as well the need for research.		Pain management is an important dimension on supportive care need of oral cancer survivors along the cancer trajectory.
Manne et al. 2016 USA	To explore the post-treatment experiences and needs of oral/ oropharyngeal cancer survivors.	summary, One-third or more desired more information about long-term effects, recommended follow-up, and symptoms that should prompt contacting a doctor and information on recurrence	While fulfilling an array of information needs of oral cancer survivors, special information should be provided on navigating available health care services for better accessibility by oral/oropharyngeal cancer survivors. Access to routine treatment services becomes important in controlling recurrences.
Lee et al. 2015 USA	of persons with oral cancer who had	There is a significant burden of multi-dimensional unmet supportive care need of oral cancer survivors with highest in emotional domain influenced by demographic and clinical attributes.	Highlights the need for support groups and attending
Ghazali et al. 2015 UK	To organize the Head and Neck Cancer -PCI) into domains.		Highlights the multi-dimensional nature of supportive care needs of oral cancer survivors. Therefore, supportive care services should address all dimensions,
Wells et al. 2015 UK	To identify the distress, unmet needs and concerns of head and neck cancer (HNC) survivors in the first 5- years after treatment,	There was a diversity of concerns and unmet needs identified among head and neck cancer survivors. Holistic needs assessment as part of follow-up care for HNC survivors with tailoring of support for particular concerns were needed. Specific information resources and self-management strategies are required to help HNC survivors with the practical and functional consequences of HNC treatment.	Highlights the need for holistic need assessment and providing specific information resources and self-management strategies tailored to the HNC survivors in COVID-19 lock down.

cancer care. Two authors (GS and IP) conducted the search of literature independently based on the pre-determined search strategy. Eligible studies were selected in the first screening that was relevant to the scope of the present mini-review. All authors engaged in the subsequent stage of meticulous appraisal of the full texts of given publications and extracting data for the evidence synthesis within the scope of this rapid mini-review. The data were extracted from selected publications on supportive care needs of oral and pharyngeal cancers, head and neck cancers and oral cancer survivors and supportive care needs of oral cancer survivors in COVID-19 lock-down scenario. A narrative synthesis of the evidence is presented.

# Results

The results are presented in (Table 1) pertaining to salient evidence synthesis highlighting supportive care and supportive care needs of head and neck, oro-pharyngeal and oral cancer survivors whilst highlighting the translational value of main findings of selected studies into COVID-19 global pandemic context. As emerged from the findings, there is a high burden of multi-dimensional supportive care needs of those cancer survivors along cancer trajectory, from diagnosis to completion of treatment and long term survival. Furthermore, coping with short term, medium term and long term ramifications of the disease and its treatment becomes challenging influenced by sociodemographic and clinical attributes. Accordingly, management of pain, addressing difficulties in chewing, swallowing, information needs on disease and its treatment, nutritional advice, managing psychological

distress and financial support are among the well-known supportive care needs of head and neck, oro-pharyngeal and oral cancer survivors.

## Discussion

Knowledge and know-how transfer in the perspective has become fundamental to navigating and optimizing the health system response to cancer survivors and cancer care providers grappling with uncertainties of cancer trajectory and persisting COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, evidence synthesis of published literature offers a promising approach in this regard. Nevertheless, the collective response to COVID-19 pandemic was challenged by an array of factors such as population and geographical heterogeneity of virulence and resilience to the disease [29], heterogeneous health care delivery models compounded by scientific uncertainties, scarcity of relevant research, proliferation of misinformation and fake news, poor access to actionable evidence, time constraints, and weak collaborations among relevant stakeholders [1].

As the COVID-19 global pandemic demonstrates waves of escalation, resurgence and higher virulence, countries are dragged on to lock down scenarios ranging from state-wise stringent imposition to localized flexible models with varying degrees of travel restrictions. Therefore, global dynamic intervention strategies for COVID-19 are

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## **Authors contribution**

GS and IP conceptualized the research and conducted the search of literature independently based on the pre-determined search strategy. All authors GS, IP, NR, MP and CH equally contributed in all other steps of the mini-review, writing the manuscript and making the final version.

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## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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