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Project Title

Characterization of cardiovascular disease burden and health of Canadian cancer survivors

Project Summary

Many individuals diagnosed with cancer will now die of cardiovascular disease instead of cancer. At the time of a cancer diagnosis a number of individuals already have cardiovascular disease risk factors due to the overlap with risk factors for cancer (i.e. overweight/obesity, physical inactivity, smoking, poor diet). Several therapies used to treat cancer can also damage the cardiovascular system and indirectly result in reductions in physical activity and unfavourable body composition changes. There is limited information available to characterize the burden of cardiovascular disease within the general cancer survivor population in Canada or worldwide. We will use the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging data to compare the prevalence of self-reported cardiovascular disease and risk factors in Canadian cancer survivors to the general population. We will also compare measures of physical function, and health of the heart, vessels, lungs, blood and muscle among cancer survivors relative to age-matched individuals without cancer.

Keywords

Cancer, cardio-oncology, cardiovascular disease, risk factors