Common types of misinformation: Alternative cancer treatment and symptom management (e.g., essential oils, diet changes)

Types of negative experiences on social media: Unsolicited advice, rude comments, and toxic positivity

Strategies for coping with negative experiences: Making profiles private and not posting about cancer

Strategies for validating information: Verifying via online search engine or healthcare provider

AYA cancer patients and caregivers seek support and information through social media platforms, making them especially susceptible to misinformation regarding cancer treatment and cancer caregiving. Future research should focus on classifying misinformation so mitigation interventions can be developed.
CIRCLE Study
Cancer misInformation Research among Caregivers and Patients

Aims

Discover: Common topics of cancer misinformation on social media
Help: Adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer patients and caregivers seek high quality information about their role and diagnoses
Reduce: Negative impacts of misinformation

Methods

Who: Cancer patients and caregivers ages 18-39
What: Semi-structured interviews and a survey
When: Spring and summer 2021

Results

Common types of misinformation:
alternative cancer treatment and symptom management (e.g., essential oils, diet changes)

Types of negative experiences on social media:
unsolicited advice, rude comments, and toxic positivity

Strategies for coping with negative experiences:
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Conclusion and Impact

AYA cancer patients and caregivers seek support and information through social media platforms, making them especially susceptible to misinformation regarding cancer treatment and cancer caregiving. Future research should focus on classifying misinformation so mitigation interventions can be developed.