

# The Teachable Moment After Cancer Diagnosis: Perceptions From Oncology Nurses

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Being treated for cancer and living as a survivor comes with an increased likelihood of ongoing quality-of-life (QOL) concerns and incidence of chronic disease, as well as the risk of cancer recurrence and the possibility of secondary tumors (Cowens-Alvarado et al., 2013). In many cases, the risk of poor QOL, recurrence, and comorbidities is exacerbated by the practice of unhealthy behaviors, such as lack of physical activity, poor nutritional choices, and tobacco use (Cowens-Alvarado et al., 2013). Consequently, an increasing level of interest has been focused on improving health behaviors in survivors as a means of enhancing QOL, reducing chronic disease, and increasing longevity.

In an attempt to effectively foster health behavior change in survivorship, researchers and practitioners have become interested in the teachable moment, or a time after naturally occurring circumstances or events that may lead individuals to make positive changes to their health behaviors (McBride, Emmons, & Lipkus, 2003). In survivors, a teachable moment has been identified during the time after cancer diagnosis when individuals may be receptive to behavior change interventions (Demark-Wahnefried, Aziz, Rowland, & Pinto, 2005). Cancer and its treatments may create challenges to making improvements in behaviors, but a cancer diagnosis may also act as a catalyst for change if individuals see the potential harm associated with unhealthy behaviors as being related to the cancer diagnosis and subsequent prognosis (McBride & Ostroff, 2003).

Although a cancer diagnosis has the potential to trigger positive lifestyle changes, most research suggests that the majority of individuals do not improve health behaviors following diagnosis (Broderick, Hussey, Kennedy, & O'Donnell, 2014; Patterson et al., 2010; Sabiston, Brunet, Vallance, & Meterissian, 2014). For example, Sabiston et al. (2014) found that, when using accelerometers to objectively measure physical activity levels in a sample of breast cancer survivors, moderate to vigorous physical activity levels significantly de-

**Purpose/Objectives:** To determine oncology nurses' perspectives of the receptiveness of survivors to receiving health behavior guidance, with secondary purposes to (a) explore other elements of oncology nurses' perceptions of the teachable moment and (b) examine differences in outcomes between American and Canadian nurses.

**Design:** Cross-sectional survey.

**Setting:** In- and outpatient oncology nursing departments in the United States and Canada.

**Sample:** 310 members of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) who currently care for patients.

**Methods:** Oncology nurses recruited through emails distributed through the CANO/ACIO and ONS Listservs completed online investigator-developed surveys.

**Main Research Variables:** Measures related to oncology nurses' perceptions of survivors' receptiveness to health behavior change counseling and the teachable moment (i.e., general receptiveness, perceived benefits, guidance and referral seeking, long- and short-term effectiveness, best time, and best resources).

**Findings:** Oncology nurses reported that survivors were receptive to receiving guidance on health behaviors, particularly during teachable moments after diagnosis and during treatment. They also perceived that a fairly low percentage of survivors asked for guidance about health behavior change; relatively few made improvements to their health behaviors.

**Conclusions:** Survivors are reported to be interested in receiving guidance concerning health behavior change during key teachable moments. Oncology nurses may need to initiate conversations with survivors, offer education regarding the benefits of positive health behavior change, and provide ongoing support throughout the cancer trajectory.

**Implications for Nursing:** Oncology nurses may use findings from the current study to guide their health behavior change counseling with survivors.

**Key Words:** clinical practice; health promotion behavior; nutrition; physical activity

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creased in the year after diagnosis. Similarly, Broderick et al. (2014) discovered that a sample of breast cancer survivors remained equally sedentary in the first year

after completion of chemotherapy and experienced a significant gain in body weight. In longer-term survivors, large cohort studies also indicated a lack of positive changes in health behaviors, reporting that, compared to cancer-free controls, cancer survivors several years into survivorship do not significantly differ in body mass index (BMI) and alcohol and tobacco consumption (Bidstrup et al., 2013; Patterson et al., 2010). Most cancer survivors are seemingly unable to self-initiate or maintain changes in health behaviors by themselves.

Despite the lack of changes that survivors initiate in their behaviors, survey research consistently indicates that this population reports interest in receiving support and guidance regarding making positive changes in the areas of physical activity (Szymlek-Gay, Richards, & Egan, 2011), tobacco cessation (Berg, Carpenter, Jardin, & Ostroff, 2013), and health behaviors (Cooley et al., 2011, 2013; Demark-Wahnefried, Peterson, McBride, Lipkus, & Clipp, 2000). In addition, when provided with counseling or other inter-

vention strategies, cancer survivors generally can make positive improvements in fruit and vegetable consumption (Campbell et al., 2009), smoking cessation (Sharp, Johansson, Fagerström, & Rutqvist, 2008), weight loss (Vitolins et al., 2014), and physical activity levels (Demark-Wahnefried et al., 2012). For example, Demark-Wahnefried et al. (2012) found that in a wait-list control, crossover trial of 641 colorectal, breast, and prostate cancer survivors, those who received a physical activity and diet intervention consisting of mailed print materials and telephone counseling for one year were able to make significant improvements in diet quality, physical activity, and BMI compared to those in the control condition. Likewise, a nurse-led tobacco cessation intervention with head and neck cancer survivors (N = 50) receiving radiation therapy was able to demonstrate significant reductions in smoking, with 74% (n = 37) of participants testing smoke-free during the course of the intervention and 68% (n = 28) testing smoke-free one year later (Sharp et al., 2008).

**Table 1. Descriptive Data of Oncology Nurses' Perceptions of Providing Health Behavior Guidance and Support to Cancer Survivors**

Variable	Diet		Physical Activity		Tobacco Cessation		Weight Loss	
	$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD
<b>General receptiveness (N = 266)<sup>a</sup></b> In general, how receptive are your patients to receiving guidance and support on these health behaviors?	4.05	0.71	3.83	0.74	3.2	0.96	3.61	0.97
<b>Perceived benefits (N = 265)<sup>a</sup></b> In general, do you feel that your patients typically recognize the health and quality-of-life benefits of these health behaviors?	2.63	0.53	2.51	0.6	2.6	0.67	2.46	0.67
<b>Guidance seeking (N = 231)</b> What percentage of your patients ask for guidance or support from you concerning these health behaviors (when applicable)?	54.6	27.7	41.7	28.5	20.4	22.9	33	28.6
<b>Referral seeking (N = 214)</b> What percentage of your patients ask for referral to an expert or specialist concerning these health behaviors (when applicable)?	36.5	27.4	18.7	23	14.4	19.8	25.6	27.3
<b>Long-term effectiveness (N = 220)</b> Of the patients you provide guidance or support to concerning health behaviors, what percentage do you believe actually make positive improvements in the long term to these health behaviors?	37.3	24.2	34	24	24.7	24.8	26.3	23.8
<b>Short-term effectiveness (N = 222)</b> Of the patients you provide guidance or support to concerning health behaviors, what percentage do you believe actually make positive improvements in the short term to these health behaviors?	45.3	25.4	39.3	24.7	27.2	24.8	27.5	24.3

<sup>a</sup> Responses range from 1 (not at all or not at all interested) to 5 (very much or very interested).

The teachable moment has the potential to decrease cancer survivors' risks associated with unhealthy behaviors, but it remains relatively underexplored. To date, no research has specifically examined the teachable moment from the perspective of oncology nurses, even though nurses can likely provide a unique viewpoint on survivors' interest and

receptiveness to making positive changes to their health behaviors. Oncology nurses frequently care for survivors following diagnosis, allowing them to obtain a good idea of survivors' ability to improve health behaviors across the cancer trajectory.

The overall aim of the current study was to explore the teachable moment following a cancer diagnosis from an oncology nursing perspective. The primary purpose was to determine oncology nurses' perspectives of the receptiveness of cancer survivors to receiving health behavior guidance and support. Secondary purposes were to (a) further explore other elements of oncology nurses' perceptions of the teachable moment and (b) explore differences in oncology nurses' perceptions of the receptiveness of cancer survivors to receiving health behavior guidance and support between the United States and Canada. The current authors hypothesized that oncology nurses would report cancer survivors being generally receptive to receiving health behavior guidance and support. In addition, the current authors expected to see differences between the United States and Canada in perceived receptiveness of cancer survivors to health behavior change guidance because of dissimilarities in health behaviors (e.g., higher physical activity and lower smoking rates in Canada as compared to the United States) (Jones, Gulbis, & Baker, 2010; Zhang et al., 2010) and healthcare systems (e.g., health care in the United States is mostly privately funded as compared to health care in Canada, which is publicly funded) (Buhr, 2013; O'Neill & O'Neill, 2007). No other hypotheses were developed, given the primarily exploratory nature of the study.

Methods

The study design was a cross-sectional exploratory online survey. The Nipissing University Research Ethics Board provided ethics approval for the study and allowed informed consent to be waived. Eligibil-

Table 2. Time Points During Which Oncology Nurses Perceive Cancer Survivors to Be Most Receptive to Health Behavior Counseling

Time Point	Diet (N = 266)	Physical Activity (N = 267)	Tobacco Cessation (N = 260)	Weight Loss (N = 264)
	n	n	n	n
During diagnosis	61	32	129	37
During treatment	148	130	60	75
Immediately post-treatment	31	50	14	46
Several months post-treatment	21	48	22	70
Several years post-treatment	1	—	1	5
Not sure	4	7	34	31

ity criteria included (a) being a practicing oncology nurse, (b) residing in the United States or Canada, and (c) currently seeing cancer survivors in a clinical capacity. Email Listservs of the memberships of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO/ACIO) and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) were used for sending recruitment emails. A total of 4,000 randomly selected eligible ONS members were sent emails, and about 1,000 emails were sent to the entire email list of CANO/ACIO. The anonymous, Internet-based survey was created using Qualtrics online survey software ([www.qualtrics.com](http://www.qualtrics.com)), and a link to it, embedded within a brief description of the study, was included in the recruitment emails. All emails featured an opt-out option. All participants were given the opportunity to enter a drawing for one of 10 \$30 gift cards. The current authors received two emails from nurses indicating ineligibility because both no longer cared for patients in a clinical capacity. The survey was conducted from May 2013 to January 2014, and a total of 310 completed surveys were received from the 5,000 emails that were sent out (response rate = 6%).

Instrument

The survey consisted of eight closed-ended items that assessed variables related to the teachable moment and were developed by the current authors. Items were independently evaluated by the authors for face validity. Perceptions of the teachable moment were assessed by items that asked about oncology nurses' observations regarding the receptiveness of cancer survivors to health behavior change counseling. These items consisted of (a) general receptiveness (how receptive survivors are to receiving guidance and support regarding positive health behavior change with responses ranging from 1 [not at all interested] to 5 [very interested]); (b) perceived benefits (the degree to which survivors recognize health and QOL benefits of positive health behavior change,

with responses ranging from 1 [not at all] to 5 [very much]); (c) guidance and referral seeking (the percentage of survivors who ask for guidance and referrals for making positive changes in health behaviors); (d) long- and short-term effectiveness (the percentage of survivors who make positive improvements in the long and short term after receiving health behavior change counseling); (e) best time (the time when survivors are the most receptive to receiving guidance and support for positive health behavior change); and (f) best resources (the effectiveness of services and resources for helping survivors improve health behaviors). Details of the specific items are displayed in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

A final section consisted of nine additional open- and closed-ended items assessing demographic and professional information. These items queried age, gender, ethnicity, geographic region, area of specialization, types of cancer specialization, and years practicing nursing (see Table 4).

## Statistical Analyses

SPSS®, version 21.0, was used for statistical analyses. A significant *p* value was set at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Descriptive statistics—including means, standard deviations, frequencies, and percentages—were used to analyze data. Differences between the primary outcome (i.e., general receptiveness to physical activity, diet, tobacco cessation, and weight-loss counseling) and country of residence (i.e., United States or Canada) were determined using independent samples *t* tests.

## Results

Descriptive statistics of demographic and professional information revealed an average age of 47.7 years. The majority of participants were female (98%) and Caucasian (90%), and 64% resided in the United States. The sample reported active clinical practice for an average of 15.5 years, with the most common area of specialization being chemotherapy (72%) and the most frequently reported type of cancer specialization being breast cancer (36%).

In brief, oncology nurses perceived that, although cancer survivors scored high on general receptiveness ( $\bar{X} = 3.2$ – $4.05$ ,  $SD = 0.71$ – $0.96$ ), they scored only moderately on perceived benefits ( $\bar{X} = 2.46$ – $2.63$ ,  $SD = 0.53$ – $0.67$ ) and fairly low on guidance seeking ( $\bar{X} = 20.4\%$ – $54.6\%$ ,  $SD = 22.9$ – $28.6$ ), long-term effectiveness ( $\bar{X} = 24.7\%$ – $37.3\%$ ,  $SD = 23.8$ – $24.8$ ), and short-term effectiveness ( $\bar{X} = 27.2\%$ – $45.3\%$ ,  $SD = 24.3$ – $25.4$ ). When oncology nurses were asked when they felt cancer survivors are most receptive to receiving guidance and support concerning health behaviors, the most frequent answer was “during treatment” for phys-

ical activity ( $n = 130$  of 267), diet ( $n = 148$  of 266), and weight loss ( $n = 75$  of 264). For tobacco cessation, the most frequent answer was “during diagnosis” ( $n = 129$  of 260). For best resources, oncology nurses rated support groups ( $\bar{X} = 4.15$ ,  $SD = 0.64$ ) and counseling ( $\bar{X} = 4.12$ ,  $SD = 0.57$ ) as the most effective.

Results of the independent *t* tests indicated a significant difference in perceived receptiveness of cancer survivors to physical activity guidance and support between American ( $\bar{X} = 3.9$ ,  $SD = 0.74$ ) and Canadian ( $\bar{X} = 3.69$ ,  $SD = 0.74$ ) nurses ( $t [257] = 2.25$ ,  $p = 0.025$  with a small effect size [Cohen’s  $d = 0.28$ ]). No significant differences were found in perceived receptiveness to guidance and support for diet, tobacco cessation, or weight loss between nurses from the United States and Canada (see Table 5).

## Discussion

The current study reports on novel data from a survey of oncology nurses’ perceptions of the teachable moment for health behavior promotion in cancer survivors. The current authors found partial support for their hypotheses.

As expected, the current authors found that oncology nurses perceived that survivors were generally receptive to guidance and support for making positive changes to their health behaviors. This finding is important because it validates previous survey research that has consistently indicated that cancer survivors report a strong interest in receiving health behavior change guidance (Berg et al., 2013; Cooley et al., 2011, 2013; Demark-Wahnefried et al., 2000; Szymlek-Gay et al., 2011). However, these previous surveys have been limited because of the high possibility of a social desirability bias in which cancer survivors offer responses that they feel are the most favorable (Karvinen, Raedeke, Arastu, & Allison, 2011). As such, the findings from the current study, which potentially lacks the social desirability bias

**Table 3. Oncology Nurses’ Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Various Services and Resources for Health Behavior Change**

Service or Resource	$\bar{X}$	SD
Counseling (N = 265)	4.12	0.57
Fitness center (N = 264)	3.93	0.73
Internet (N = 264)	3.64	0.73
Print materials (N = 267)	3.55	0.79
Support groups (N = 268)	4.15	0.64
Videos (N = 264)	3.43	0.77

Note. Services and resources were rated from 1 (not at all effective) to 5 (very effective).



of research with cancer survivors, supports previous surveys and further highlights the need for additional supportive care services for survivors for improving health behaviors.

Similar to the current study, past research has suggested that cancer survivors report being most interested in receiving guidance and support concerning diet (Green, Steinnagel, Morris, & Laakso, 2014) and physical activity (Green et al., 2014; Philip et al., 2014) during the teachable moment (shortly after diagnosis or during treatment). For tobacco cessation, the most common time in the current study during which oncology nurses felt cancer survivors were the most receptive to guidance was at diagnosis, possibly because of the connection that many survivors make with a cancer diagnosis and tobacco use. These findings provide additional evidence of a teachable moment after cancer diagnosis; the diagnosis of cancer may cue individuals to be more interested in making positive changes to their health behaviors.

Contrary to past research, oncology nurses in the current study's sample reported that they perceive cancer survivors to not generally recognize the health and QOL benefits of practicing positive health behaviors. Past research surveying cancer survivors generally indicates that survivors are well aware of the benefits of positive health behaviors, at least in the physical activity domain (Bulmer, Howell, Ackerman, & Fedric, 2012; Craike, Hose, Courneya, Harrison, & Livingston, 2013). For example, survivors report recognizing the benefits of physical activity for recovery from the side effects of therapy, psychological and social well-being, and enjoyment (Craike et al., 2013), and they are able to make connections between good QOL indices and participation in exercise (Bulmer et al., 2012). This discrepancy may be because oncology nurses are possibly not aware of what survivors find to be the benefits of positive health behaviors. Alternatively, survivors may over-report the perceived benefits of health behavior change because of social desirability bias.

In the current study, oncology nurses indicated that relatively few survivors requested guidance or asked for a referral to a specialist concerning health behavior change support. However, previous surveys suggest strong interest by survivors in health behavior guidance (Berg et al., 2013; Cooley et al., 2011, 2013; Demark-Wahnefried et al., 2000; Szymlek-Gay et al., 2011). These findings suggest that, although survivors may be interested in receiving guidance concerning health behavior change, they may not initiate discussions to ask for additional support. In addition, opportunities to focus on health promotion discussions in the efficiency-driven, disease-focused cancer care system may leave little time or opportunity for survivors to ask for support, or for healthcare providers to assess and offer support for health-promoting behaviors (Arora, 2009;

Feuerstein & Ganz, 2011; Roundtree, Giordano, Price, & Suarez-Almazor, 2011). Given the mounting evidence for the benefits of adopting healthy behaviors (e.g., physical activity, diet, weight maintenance, smoking cessation) for cancer survivors, oncology nurses must initiate the dialogue and offer ongoing support for adopting these behaviors at teachable moments throughout the cancer trajectory.

The majority of past research suggests that, without support, few survivors make positive changes to their health behaviors after a cancer diagnosis (Broderick et al., 2014; Patterson et al., 2010; Sabiston et al., 2014). From data gathered in the current study, oncology nurses overall indicated that a fairly low percentage of cancer survivors actually made positive changes to

**Table 4. Sample Characteristics**

Characteristic	$\bar{X}$	SD
Age (years) (N = 263)	47.7	10.8
Length of time as nurse (years) (N = 264)	15.5	9.9
Characteristic	n	%
<b>Area of specialization (N = 262)<sup>a</sup></b>		
Chemotherapy	189	72
Radiation therapy	83	32
Surgical oncology	56	21
Bone marrow transplantation	39	15
Other	66	25
<b>Ethnicity (N = 260)</b>		
Caucasian	234	90
Asian or East Indian	8	3
African	7	3
Other	11	4
<b>Gender (N = 261)</b>		
Female	256	98
Male	5	2
<b>Residency: Canada (N = 94)</b>		
Ontario	46	49
Prairies	20	23
Atlantic	19	20
Quebec	5	5
British Columbia	4	4
<b>Residency: United States (N = 168)<sup>b</sup></b>		
Northeast	43	26
South	42	25
Midwest	38	23
West	45	27
<b>Types of cancer specialization (N = 138)<sup>a</sup></b>		
All types	42	30
Breast	49	36
Leukemia or lymphoma	36	26
Lung or thoracic	22	16
Colon or gastrointestinal	21	15
Prostate or genitourinary	18	13
Gynecologic	16	12
Other	29	21

<sup>a</sup> Multiple responses were permitted.

<sup>b</sup> Regions are based on U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.) geographic regions.

Note. Because of rounding, percentages may not total 100.

their health behaviors in the short or long term, even after receiving guidance and support from nurses. These findings suggest that more effective counseling or different intervention strategies may be required to make positive changes in health behaviors among cancer survivors. In addition, as identified by the oncology nurses in the current

study, teachable moments may exist throughout the cancer trajectory; during these times, specific health behaviors may optimally be targeted for intervention. Shifting the model of care to create intentional opportunities at specific time points (e.g., diagnosis, during treatment, throughout the survivorship phase) for oncology nurses to provide information, counseling, and ongoing health behavior change support for survivors is imperative.

Contrary to the current authors' hypotheses, minimal differences were found between oncology nurses in the United States and Canada in terms of cancer survivors' general receptiveness to health behavior change guidance. The current authors did find that nurses from the United States rated cancer survivors as being slightly more receptive to receiving physical activity guidance than did Canadian nurses; the difference was small but still statistically significant. That larger differences did not emerge is surprising, considering discrepancies between the two countries regarding healthcare systems (the United States' multi-payer, mostly privately funded system versus Canada's single-payer, publicly funded system) (O'Neill & O'Neill, 2007). As a result, in general, Canadians experience longer wait times for services, whereas costs sometimes result in lack of access for some individuals in the United States (O'Neill & O'Neill, 2007). Canadians, compared to Americans, have been found in previous research to indicate better access to needed medicine and are more likely to have a regular doctor; however, they are less likely to have experienced cancer screening and are more likely to have perceptions of unmet healthcare needs (Buhr, 2013; O'Neill & O'Neill, 2007). Differences in health behaviors have also been found between the two countries, with higher physical activity levels (Zhang et al., 2010) and lower smoking rates (Jones et al., 2010) reported among Canadians than Americans.

### Strengths and Limitations

One strength of the current study was the fairly large sample size that is representative of oncology nurses

from disparate regions throughout the United States and Canada. A prominent weakness is a possible social desirability bias involving oncology nurses' wish to present their patients and the effectiveness of their interactions with them in a favorable way. In addition, given the small survey response rate (6%), oncology nurses with an affinity for providing health behavior change guidance and support or care for populations where health behavior change is more readily taken up (e.g., women with breast cancer as compared to patients with lung cancer) may have self-selected to respond, thereby biasing results. In addition, the instrument used in the study was developed by the current authors and has not been validated.

Future studies using qualitative approaches may extend and provide context to the current study's survey results to explore oncology nurses' perspectives regarding what helps survivors to be ready for a teachable moment, as well as which health behavior change strategies are likely to be effective in which situations across the cancer trajectory. Similarly, gaining an understanding of the complex survivor perspectives regarding triggers and helpful strategies to support short- and long-term health behavior change is necessary to fully appreciate how to successfully support survivors to achieve optimal health. Studies incorporating an experimental design that examine the effectiveness of nurse-initiated discussions with cancer survivors concerning health behavior change may also be warranted.

### Implications for Nursing and Conclusion

Results of the current study indicate that oncology nurses perceive that survivors were receptive to receiving guidance concerning health behavior change, particularly during teachable moments (e.g., shortly after diagnosis, during treatment). However, according to oncology nurses, many survivors did not generally ask nurses for help or for referrals regarding health behavior change. In addition, oncology nurses felt that the majority of survivors to whom they provided

**Table 5. Comparison of Means Between U.S. and Canadian Nurses for Perceived Receptiveness of Cancer Survivors to Health Behavior Guidance**

Variable	United States (N = 168)		Canada (N = 94)		t	df	p	Cohen's d
	$\bar{X}$	SD	$\bar{X}$	SD				
Diet	4.09	0.72	3.97	0.7	1.33	257	0.19	0.17
Physical activity	3.9	0.74	3.69	0.74	2.25	257	0.03	0.28
Tobacco cessation	3.19	0.99	3.2	0.84	-0.14	256	0.89	0.01
Weight loss	3.62	0.97	3.6	0.99	-1.57	254	0.12	0.02

<sup>a</sup> Responses range from 1 (not at all or not at all interested) to 5 (very much or very interested).  
df—degrees of freedom

## Knowledge Translation

Cancer survivors may be interested in receiving guidance concerning health behavior change, particularly after diagnosis and during treatment.

Survivors typically do not seek guidance or ask for referrals in making positive changes to their health behaviors.

Some oncology nurses perceive survivors as not fully recognizing the health and quality-of-life benefits of positive health behavior change, or that those who do receive guidance and support do not make positive changes to their health behaviors in the short or long term.

guidance concerning health behaviors did not make positive changes in the short or long term. Very small differences were found between oncology nurses in the United States and in Canada regarding their perceptions of survivors' receptiveness to receiving health behavior change guidance.

Oncology nurses may use these findings to guide their health behavior change counseling with survivors. Nurses should recognize that the perception of cancer survivors being receptive to receiving health behavior counseling of all types contrasts with their

typically not asking for guidance or making short- or long-term changes. Consequently, oncology nurses should regularly inquire about survivors' health behaviors and provide guidance and support for positive health behavior change as needed. Oncology nurses also should provide information to survivors concerning the advantages of making positive changes to their health behaviors because many survivors may not fully recognize the benefits. In addition, oncology nurses may find the provision of positive health behavior change guidance to survivors to be particularly effective if initiated during diagnosis or treatment because survivors may be most receptive during those times. Oncology nurses must advocate to shift the model of care to include opportunities to focus on and provide ongoing support for health promotion in the context of cancer treatment and care across the cancer trajectory.

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### For Further Exploration

## Use This Article in Your Next Journal Club Meeting

Journal club programs can help to increase your ability to evaluate literature and translate findings to clinical practice, education, administration, and research. Use the following questions to start discussion at your next journal club meeting. Then, take time to recap the discussion and make plans to proceed with suggested strategies.

1. How comfortable are you with recognizing the teachable moment? How do you recognize when it happens?
2. What are the most important messages about health promotion behaviors that you want to convey to your patients?
3. What barriers and facilitators exist for you to do more health promotion counseling with your patients?
4. Why do you think that cancer survivors experience dissonance between their desire to live healthier lives and their ability to do so?

Visit <http://bit.ly/1vUqbVj> for details on creating and participating in a journal club. Photocopying of this article for discussion purposes is permitted.