

**Cancer-related cognitive impairment: A mixed-methods evaluation of a standard
factsheet**

Supportive Care in Cancer

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Supplementary File B. Steps taken to ensure methodological rigour

Recruitment process:

- recruiting a diverse sample was prioritised
- prior to telephone interview, participants were contacted briefly to receive the factsheet and to schedule the interview
 - contact was brief; rapport building occurred during interviews
 - participants were not disclosed any information about the interviewer/researcher except that the study was for CL's honours project, to minimise any biases or influences on participants' interview responses.

Interview process:

- most interviews were conducted by CL (female), two by another researcher (HD, female) as those participants were known to CL
 - CL: a female Psychology honours student who completed a qualitative research training workshop; supervised by HD
 - HD: a female Doctor in Psychology and Research Fellow with extensive experience in qualitative research
- interviewers conducted telephone interviews from a private room, either in an office or home setting.
- all interviews were completed in a single session with no repeat interviews, and all were audio recorded
- all interviews were transcribed verbatim by CL
- transcripts were not returned to participants for correction, to preserve their initial perspectives
- member checking interviews were conducted
- ensuring thematic saturation was achieved.

Analytical process:

- researcher regularly journaled their beliefs and biases, and changes during the study (see next page)
- post-interview reflection notes were written after each interview
- independent coding by two researchers (CL, HD), and iterative discussion and revision of codes
- the constant comparative approach was used to compare new data with identified themes.

Biases and beliefs of the researcher, CL:

Prior to 1st interview	After initial coding discussion	After 11th interview
I believe CRCI is real	I believe CRCI is real and it can occur prior to the start of cancer treatment	I believe CRCI is real and it can be caused by a number of factors although people who undergo chemotherapy treatment may have worse CRCI
I believe health professionals should discuss CRCI with cancer patients at either the time or diagnosis or at treatment	I believe the factsheet would be useful for cancer patients at diagnosis and again just before treatment	(Same)
I believe the factsheet is informative but may be too long for people with cognitive impairments to read	I believe the factsheet is a bit too long and difficult to read for patients, but the way the factsheet is worded is necessary to convey all information; I believe the headings allow patients to read it over time if it is too long to be read in one sitting	I think some of the medical language used in the factsheet would be easy to understand for patients as they have more knowledge about certain cancer-related medical terms than the non-cancerous population; I think this means the factsheet may not be too difficult for cancer patients to understand; however I think some of the information conveyed in the factsheet should be put in simpler terms
I think the strategies help in managing CRCI but not necessarily in curing it	I believe the strategies can help cure CRCI in some, however I think more strategies and practical help is needed for those with more severe CRCI	(Same)
	I think the strategies are helpful but some may be too difficult for people to do	I think the provision of a variety of strategies is helpful; while some strategies may seem impractical to some, each individual person will prefer different types of strategies so it is important to include a range of strategies in the factsheet
I believe the factsheet is important and people in the community should read it	(Same)	I believe the factsheet is important and people in the community should read it, regardless of whether they have been diagnosed with cancer or not
		I think the factsheet needs to place more emphasis that CRCI can occur prior to treatment, and does not occur just for people who undergo chemotherapy treatment