

Abstract

This systematic review examined how childhood cancer affects illness identity and long-term psychosocial outcomes. Across 39 studies, childhood cancer was associated with disruptions in development, body image, academics, and social integration, while family and peer support and targeted interventions were associated with improved self-concept, self-efficacy, and quality of life.

1

Introduction

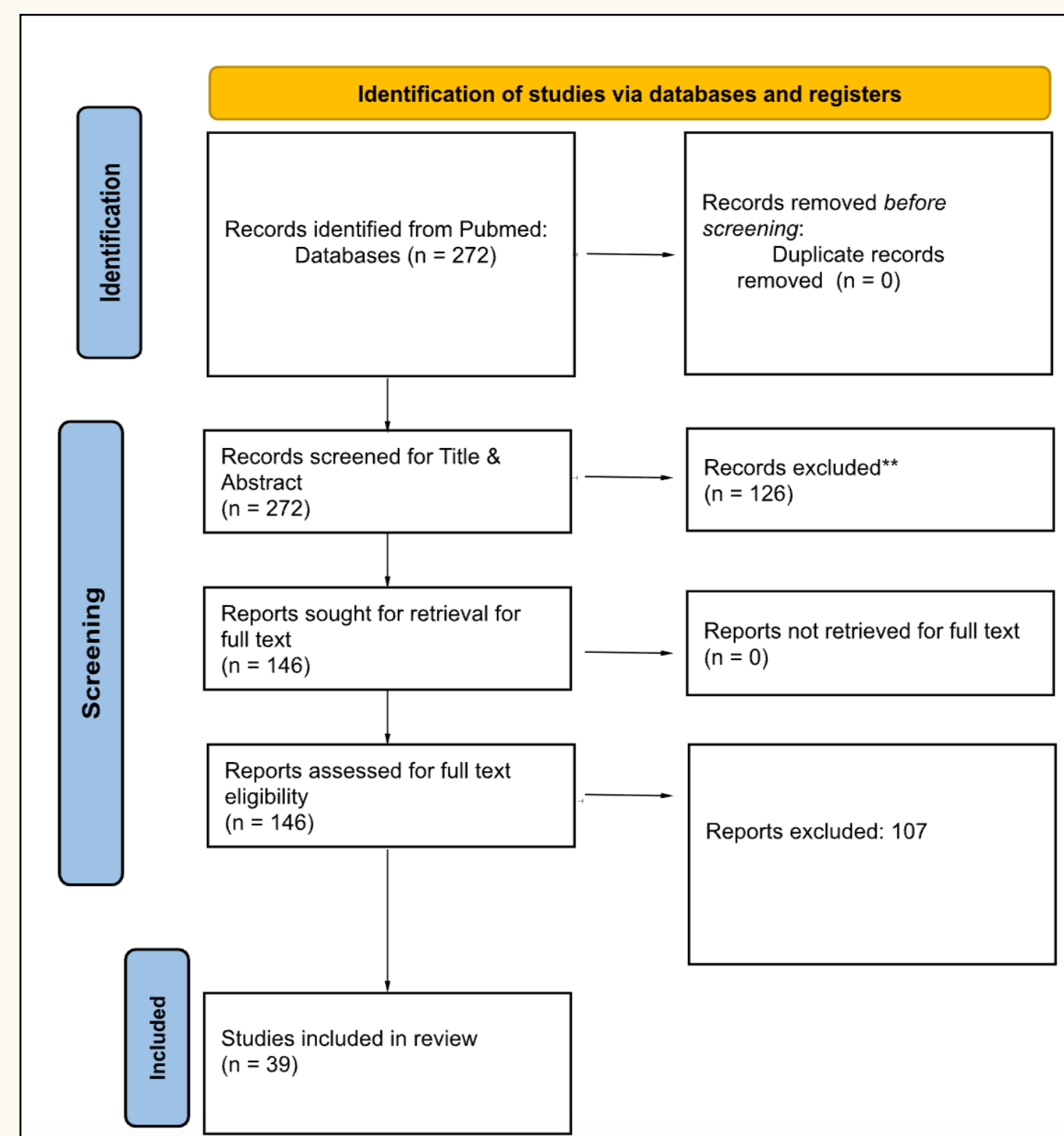
Context: Childhood cancer can affect children beyond physical health, disrupting development, relationships, self-perception, and quality of life.

Gap: Although psychosocial outcomes in childhood cancer have been widely studied, the ways cancer affects illness identity and identity development across childhood and survivorship have received less integrated attention.

Aim: This systematic review examined how childhood cancer affects illness identity and psychosocial well-being, with particular attention to identity development, social relationships, self-concept, and factors that promote resilience.

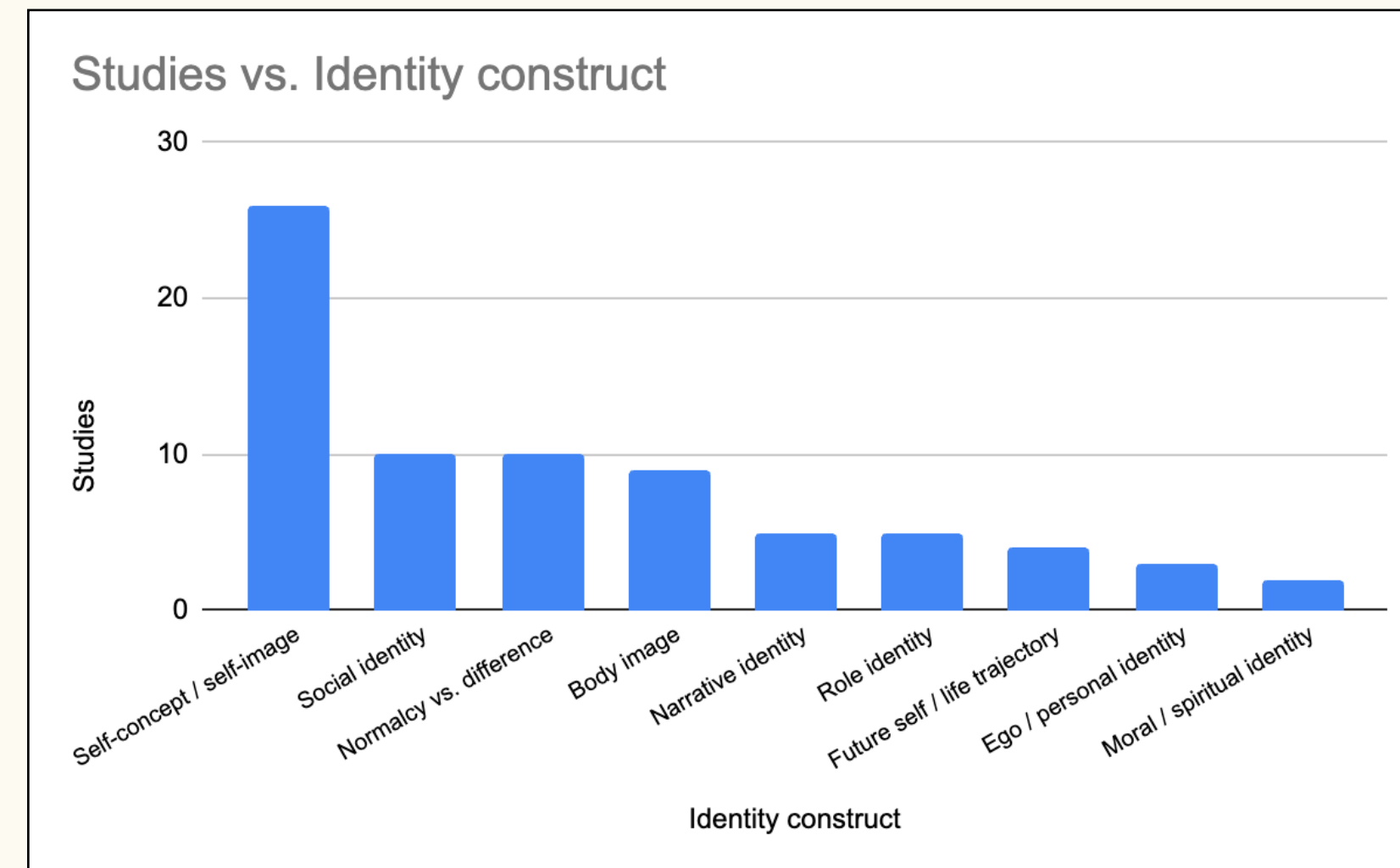
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Methodology



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Results



Developmental and Biological Disruption: Studies described interruptions to education, social development independence, etc.

Resilience: Survivors demonstrated self-efficacy, improved self-concept, positive identity reconstruction, post-traumatic growth, etc.

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Discussion

Childhood cancer affects normal development of identity during a period of time when children and adolescents form their sense of self.

Although many studies identified challenges in self-concept, body image, social integration, and psychological well-being, others demonstrated resilience, self-efficacy, and positive identity reconstruction.

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Conclusion

Childhood cancer can disrupt identity development and psychosocial well-being, particularly self-concept, body image, and social relationships.

However, support systems and interventions may promote resilience and positive identity development.

Future research should evaluate identity-focused psychosocial interventions across survivorship.

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