Preface
The Many Facets of Cancer Survivorship

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Editor

With improvements in cancer screening and treatment, a diagnosis of cancer for many patients is one of chronic disease or a cure with long-term sequelae. There are now presently over 15 million cancer survivors living in the United States, and numbers are expected to grow. In 2006, an Institute of Medicine report defined cancer survivorship as a distinct phase of care with essential components of the care. That report outlined some of the challenges these patients may face as well as the gaps in care delivery. In this issue of the Medical Clinics of North America, many of the issues that are unique to cancer survivors are reviewed with a fresh look at the most current literature on the subject.

The spectrum of cancer survivorship care is encompassed by transitions of care and care coordination that can be complex. Good communication between primary care providers and oncology practitioners is paramount. The challenges presented by our health system and models of care delivery are explored.

The potential long-term and latent side effects of the most common treatments are outlined. In particular, reviews on anxiety and depression, cognitive changes, sexual dysfunction, and fatigue related to cancer and its treatment are presented. The interplay of diet, physical activity, and weight is relevant for not only prevention of cancer but also cancer-related outcomes. An overview of the evidence-based literature as it pertains to some of the more common cancer types is included.

The unique needs of adolescent and young adult cancer survivors are reviewed. These individuals will likely be followed in adult care settings, increasing the importance of educating our primary care providers about this topic. Appropriate surveillance for cancer recurrence and screening for secondary cancers creates great stress for patients, and the most up-to-date guidelines for the most common tumor types are covered. Finally, the importance of addressing palliative care issues during the cancer continuum is discussed.
I am appreciative of the work the authors have put forward to present this issue on cancer survivorship and am hopeful these reviews will assist with improvements in the care delivery.

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REFERENCES