

# Spiritual distress and religious involvement in end-of-life care in patients who have cancer: A cross-sectional study

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**Keywords:** Caregivers; Palliative care; Patients; Spirituality.

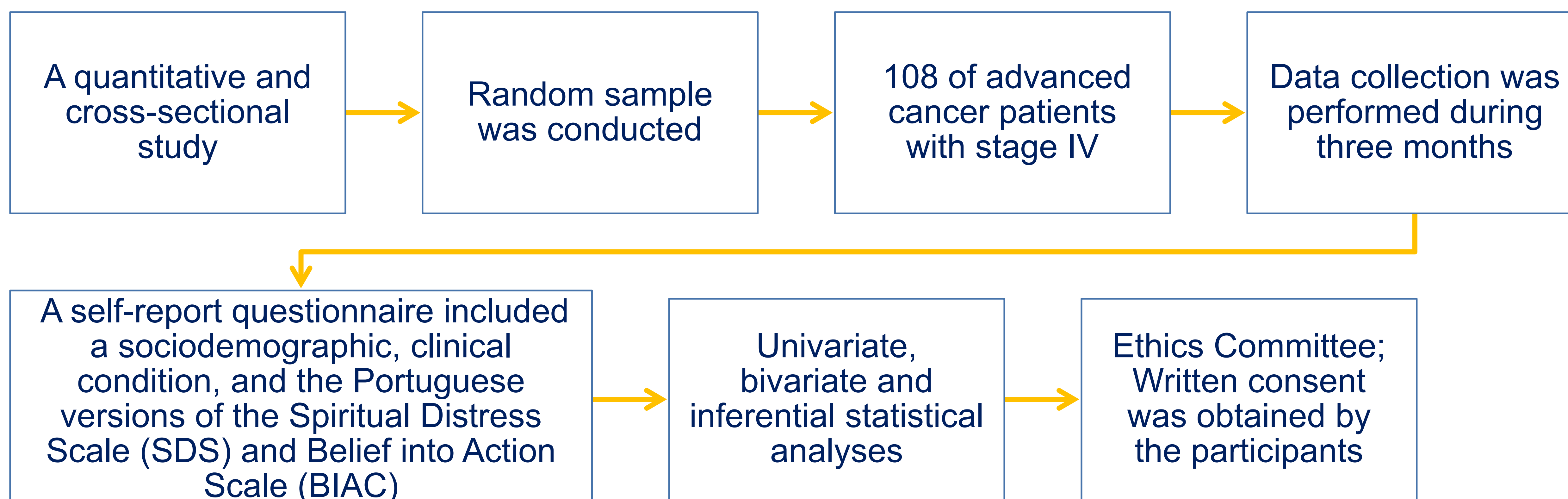
## Introduction:

Spirituality is seen as a central dimension in people's lives in particular end-of-life settings (Puchalski et al., 2019). However, when spiritual needs are not provided spiritual distress is a reality. Spiritual distress is related with the lack of meaning, disconnection and suffering, which require coping strategies and includes spiritual/religious values and beliefs (Martins & Caldeira, 2018).

## Purpose:

To determine the value of spiritual distress and religious involvement in advanced cancer patients.  
To determine a correlation between spiritual distress and religious involvement variables.

## Methods:



## "Encontro com Dra. Jean Watson"



## Results:

Sample characteristics (N=108)	
Gender	Male (n= 56, 51.9%) Female (n= 52, 48.1%)
Mean age	61.4 (SD=± 11.703)
Range age	38 to 83 years old
Marital status	Married (n=71, 65.7%)
Occupation	Retired (n=44, 44%)
Religious affiliation	n= 100, 92.6%
Clinical diagnosis	Colon cancer (n=24, 22.2%) Lung cancer (n=24, 22.2%) Breast cancer (n=19, 17.6%)

**Spiritual Distress Scale (SDS)**

- Internal consistency =  $\alpha = 0.89$
- Mean score of SDS was 57.26 (SD= ±12.736)
- Prevalence of spiritual distress was 47%

**Belief into Action Scale (BIAC)**

- Internal consistency =  $\alpha = 0.85$
- Mean score of BIAC was 35.33 (SD= ±12.463)

Was achieve significant negative correlation between the SDS and the BIAC ( $\rho = -0.328; p < 0.001$ )

## Conclusions:

In end-of-life care, spiritual distress is experience in almost half of the patients. This highlights the need of healthcare providers should be aware of this experience and recognize spiritual distress in cancer patients, as it is essential in order to provide holistic care. In addition, religion is a coping strategy for patients with spiritual distress.

## References:

Puchalski, C. M., Sbrana, A., Ferrell, B., Jafari, N., King, S., Balboni, T., Miccinesi, G., Vandenhoeck, A., Silbermann, M., Balducci, L., Yong, J., Antonuzzo, A., Falcone, A., & Ripamonti, C. I. (2019). Interprofessional spiritual care in oncology: a literature review. *ESMO Open*, 4(1), e000465. <https://doi.org/10.1136/esmoopen-2018-000465>. Martins, H., & Caldeira, S. (2018). Spiritual distress in cancer patients: A synthesis of qualitative studies. *Religions*, 9(10), 285. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel9100285>