Cancer, Cognitive Impairment, and Work-Related Outcomes: An Integrative Review

Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN, FAAN, Susan Storey, PhD, RN, AOCNS®, Eileen Tallman, BA, Adele Nielsen, BSN, RN, Shelley A. Johns, PsyD, ABPP, and Susan J. Pressler, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAHA

Von Ah is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Community and Health Systems and Storey is a visiting assistant scientist, both in the School of Nursing. Tallman is a clinical research specialist in the School of Medicine, Nielsen is a research project manager in the School of Nursing. Johns is an assistant professor in the School of Medicine, and Pressler is a professor and Sally Reahard Endowed Chair in the School of Nursing, all at Indiana University in Indianapolis.

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Von Ah can be reached at dvonah@iu.edu, with copy to editor at ONFEditor@ons.org.

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More than 40% of the 14.5 million cancer survivors in the United States alone are of working age (American Cancer Society, 2014). However, many of these individuals experience unrelieved symptoms and side effects from cancer and cancer treatments, including cognitive impairment (Jansen, Miaskowski, Dodd, Dowling, & Kramer, 2005a, 2005b). Concerns regarding cognitive function, including problems with attention, memory, processing information, and making decisions, have been reported by cancer survivors (Munir, Burrows, Yarker, Kalawsky, & Bains, 2010; Myers, 2012). These cognitive impairments have been demonstrated on neuropsychological assessments (Anderson-Hanley, Sherman, Riggs, Agocha, & Compas, 2003; Falleti, Sanfilippo, Maruff, Weih, & Phillips, 2005; Jansen et al., 2005a; Stewart, Bielajew, Collins, Parkinson, & Tomiak, 2006) and functional magnetic resonance imaging (Cimprich et al., 2010; Ferguson, McDonald, Saykin, & Ahles, 2007; McDonald, 2008).