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A Multi-modality Approach to Cancer Cachexia

Needs: Involuntary weight loss in patients with cancer is of greater concern to them than all other side effects, including pain. Cachexia is associated with poor prognosis, increased adverse effects of chemotherapy and decreased quality of life. Although traditionally regarded as an inevitable, intractable consequence of cancer there is evidence that a multimodal therapeutic approach may improve clinical outcomes.

Objectives: To increase awareness and understanding of the clinical importance of cachexia; to identify and treat reversible contributors to cachexia; and to understand the need for a multimodality comprehensive approach to cachexia management.