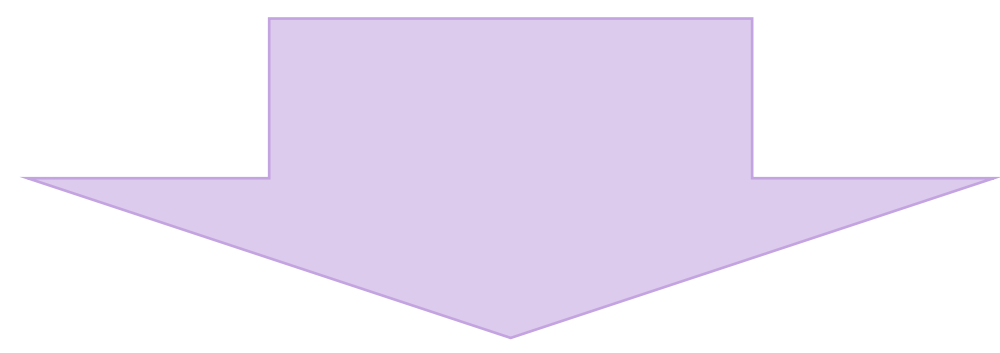


Predictors of return to work in European cancer survivors: a systematic review

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Background:

- 4.4 million new cancer diagnoses in Europe in 2020¹
- 36% of the new diagnoses in working-age population (20-64 years)¹
- Indirect costs of 20 billion € in Europe in 2018²
- Temporary withdrawal from work due to treatment and side effects³
- Work is an self-efficacy and identity-promoting factor impacting peoples well-being and quality of life^{4,5}
- Return to work (RTW) rates vary between cancer populations, European countries, and study design and operationalization of RTW (39%-77%)⁶



Research question: What are predictors of return to work in European cancer survivors?

Methods:

- Within the EU Joint Action CraNE
- Systematic literature search in PubMed, Web of Science, Embase in February 2023
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Studies published in German and English language
 - Published between 2013-2023
 - Population: Cancer survivors in working-age (study cohort $n \geq 200$), excluding childhood cancer
 - Outcome: RTW
 - Study designs: Cohort studies, cross-sectional designs, RCTs, qualitative designs
- Screening and data extraction examined by two reviewers
- Quality assessment with the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool

Results:

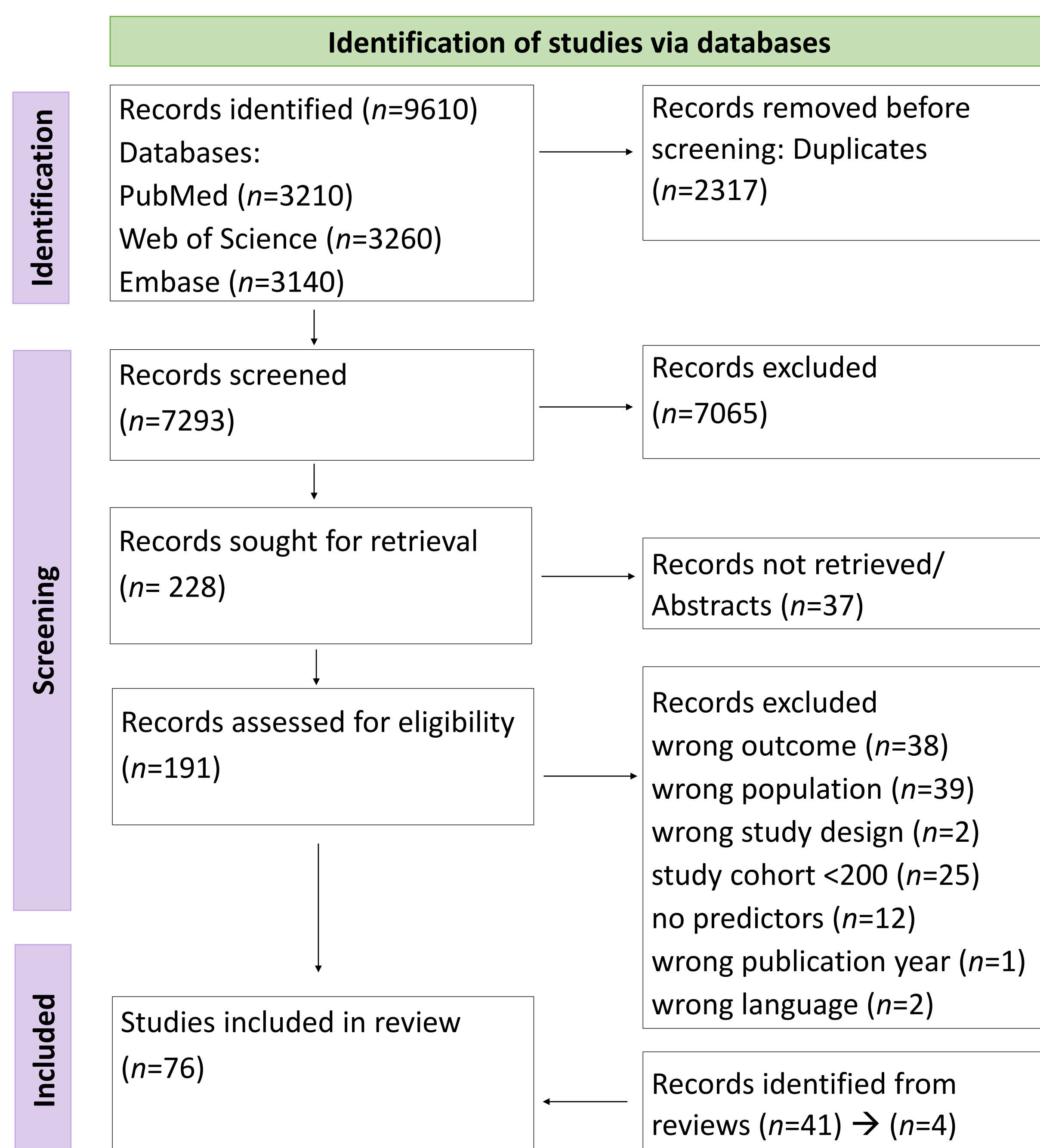


Figure 1: PRISMA Flowchart

Sociodemographic predictors: Age, education, income, region, family status

Work-related predictors: workplace characteristics, work-ability, intention to RTW, work situation before and after diagnosis

Psychosocial and health behavior-related predictors: Physical activity, lifestyle decisions, mindset regarding return to work

Disease-related predictors: Cancer entity and prognosis, comorbidities, consequences of disease

Treatment-related predictors: Treatment decisions, side effects

Social welfare system-related predictors: Country-specific programs, rehabilitation

Pre-diagnosis Diagnosis Treatment Rehabilitation Follow-up

Figure 2: Predictors of return to work over the time course of a patient pathway

Discussion:

- The review identified work, treatment, disease and health behavior-related predictors as well as predictors relating to the psychosocial and sociodemographic situation and the social welfare system
- Predictors vary over the patient pathway: pre-diagnosis, at diagnosis, during treatment, during rehabilitation, at follow-up
- Heterogenous results: Associations between predictors and RTW differ depending on the cancer entity, the time point of measurement, the country and social welfare system, and the definition and operationalization of RTW

Conclusion:

- Cancer survivors at risk can be identified by involved providers
- It is important to consider the type and stage of cancer for RTW
- Predictors can be used to develop cancer survivorship programs
- Lack of knowledge regarding when and by whom the needs of cancer survivors need to be addressed

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