

## Associations between Gender, Perceived Vulnerability, and Social Coping when Facing Cancer-Related Stress

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### Background:

- The cancer experience can be exhausting
- Coping – the way individuals mitigate internal and external demands related to a stressful situation
- Perceived vulnerability – the extent to which an individual views themselves as susceptible to a health issue
- Gender differences?
  - Defining gender
  - Masculine gender norms may explain gender differences
- Current research gaps which address:
  - Gender and social coping strategies in the context of cancer
  - The relationship between gender and perceived vulnerability to cancer

### Hypotheses:

- Men will be less likely to use social coping strategies than women when facing cancer-related stress
- Men will be less likely to perceive themselves as vulnerable to cancer than women

### Methods:

- Secondary analysis
- N = 52
  - 24 male, 28 female
- Instrumentation
  - Perceptions of Vulnerability Scale (PVS)
  - How I Coped Under Pressure Scale (HICUPS)
- SPSS for analyses