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**A SHORTENED VERSION OF THE SICKNESS IMPACT PROFILE FOR ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHO-SOCIAL STATUS IN CANCER SURVIVORS.**

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This study examines the value of a generic health status measure - the Sickness Impact Profile (SIP) - in describing and understanding cancer survivorship. The study developed a shortened, specific version of the SIP, applicable across tumour types and sites.

Cancer survivors were defined as in a previous comparative study in California and Sweden: i.e, patients who had had their diagnosis for 2-3 years and who were informed about their cancer, and were physically and mentally fit to complete a lengthy psychosocial examination. They were randomly selected from tumour registries across ages (20-70 yrs), most cancer sites, and urban/suburban/rural areas.

A shortened SIP version was derived from a series of bivariate, partial, and multiple correlations that used survivors' overall adjustment to their cancer as the essential criterion for analyses (n=406, Swedish data set). The two SIP domains, i.e, Social interaction and Emotional behaviour, emerged as most important for the adjustment after correction for co-morbidity. The more functional limitations in these two areas, the higher the risk of poor adjustment. Predominant elements of social interaction for survivors included 10 items relating to: group activities, visits, length of visit, staying alone, talking with people, expressing concern about own health, concern about people's problems, showing affection, joking with family, and sexual activity. Emotional behaviour comprised 6 items on psychic balance: sudden frights, laughing or crying suddenly, acting nervous or restless, acting irritable and impatient with oneself, talking hopelessly about future, and moaning or groaning in pain or discomfort. In conclusion, a 16-item SIP version is recommended for clinical use in assessing psychosocial status of cancer survivors.