# Marriage Linked to Improved Cancer Survival Rates



### Marriage Linked to Improved Cancer Survival Rates

A 2013 study published in the "Journal of Clinical Oncology" has resurfaced, highlighting that married cancer patients have significantly better survival rates compared to unmarried patients. This week, the findings gained attention on social media after Brad Wilcox, a sociologist at the University of Virginia, shared an excerpt from the study on a social media platform.

The research examined 734,889 patients diagnosed with the ten deadliest cancers between 2004 and 2008. The study found that married patients were 33% less likely to die from cancer than their unmarried counterparts and that marriage was more effective than chemotherapy in improving survival rates for several cancers, including breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers.

Dr. Daniel Landau, an oncologist and contributor to the Mesothelioma Center at Asbestos.com, explained that the benefits of marriage might be linked to the emotional and physical support provided by a spouse. Married patients were also more likely to undergo surgery and radiation treatment, contributing to their better outcomes.

The study involved patients diagnosed with lung, colorectal, breast, pancreatic, prostate, liver, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, head/neck, ovarian, and esophageal cancers. Married patients had a reduced risk of dying from these cancers, with head and neck cancers showing a 33% lower mortality rate compared to unmarried patients.

Overall, the study emphasizes the role of social support in cancer treatment and suggests that healthcare providers consider marital status when planning treatment and support for cancer patients.