

# Associations between cancer-related financial stress and strain and low health-related quality-of-life in colorectal cancer survivors

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# Introduction & Methods

**Aim:** To investigate associations between the financial burden cause by cancer and health-related quality-of-life (HRQoL), in colorectal cancer survivors

**Design:** Cross-sectional postal survey of colorectal cancer survivors (ICD10 C18-20), diagnosed 6-30 months previously, identified from National Cancer Registry Ireland (n=495 participated)

**Outcome:** HRQoL from EORTC QLQ30

## Measures of cancer-related financial burden:

(objective) *financial stress* – impact of cancer diagnosis on household's ability to make ends meet (much less – much more difficult)

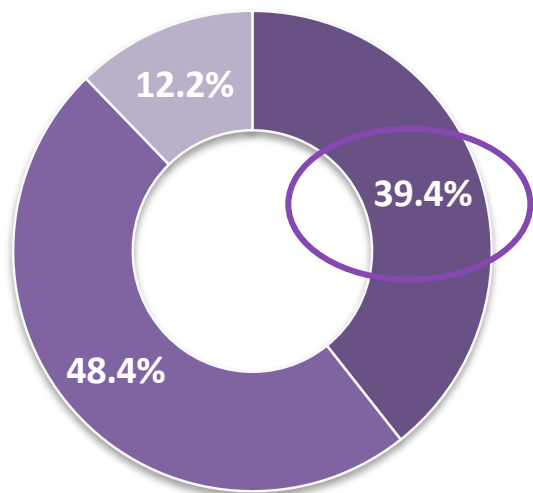
(subjective) *financial strain* – feelings about household's financial situation since cancer diagnosis (much less – much more concerned)

**Analysis:** multivariate logistic regression; predicting low HRQoL ( $\leq 33$ )

# Cancer-related financial burden

## Objective cancer-related financial stress

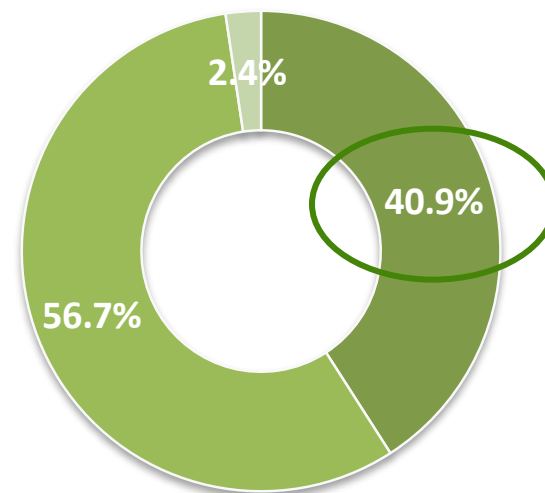
*Cancer diagnosis has made household's ability to make ends meet....*



■ Worsened ■ No change ■ Improved

## Subjective cancer-related financial strain

*Feelings about household's financial situation since cancer diagnosis....*



■ More concerned ■ No change ■ Less concerned

# Multivariate results & conclusions

## Significant socio-demographic and clinical predictors of low HRQoL

	Adj. OR	95% CI
<b>Has children</b>		
Yes	1	-
No	2.27	1.29-4.01
<b>Highest educational level</b>		
Primary	1.91	1.18-3.09
Secondary	1	-
Tertiary	1.16	0.66-2.02
<b>Currently has stoma</b>		
No	1	-
Yes	1.82	1.12-2.94
<b>Received chemotherapy</b>		
No	1	-
Yes	0.60	0.36-0.99

## Cancer-related financial stress and strain and low HRQoL

	Adj. OR	95% CI
<b>Cancer-related financial stress</b>		
Improved	0.61	0.26 - 1.40
No change	1	-
Worsened	1.78	1.13 - 2.81
<b>Cancer-related financial strain</b>		
Less concerned	0.46	0.06 - 3.80
No change	1	-
More concerned	2.63	1.68 - 4.14

ORs adjusted for children, educational level, stoma and chemotherapy

**Conclusion:** These results provide further rationale for the development of strategies to help alleviate the financial burden of cancer on patients and families.