



# Treatment Decision Making Priorities and Satisfaction Among Older Prostate Cancer Survivors

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## BACKGROUND

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among male older adults living in the United States.
- Individuals diagnosed with prostate cancer are often burdened by treatment decisions due to limited consensus about optimal treatment strategy and the potential for deleterious side effects.
- Few studies have examined older adults' priorities, knowledge, or satisfaction with respect to prostate cancer treatment decisions.

## AIMS

- This study examined 1) older adults' priorities in making prostate cancer treatment decisions, 2) their knowledge, sense of preparation, and involvement in treatment decision-making, and 3) their satisfaction with the decision making process and their treatment-related outcomes.

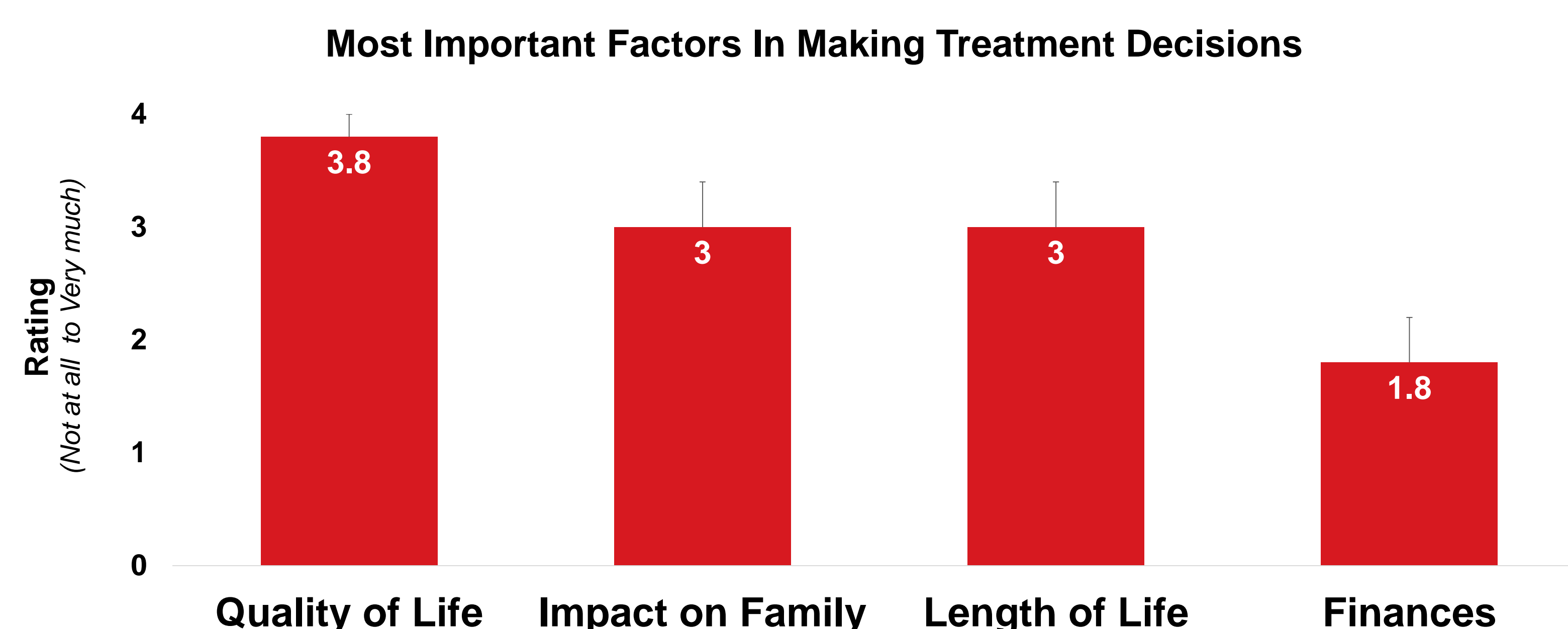
## METHODS

- Using the Cancer Support Community's Cancer Experience Registry, an online initiative to capture the experiences of patients and caregivers impacted by cancer, 72 individuals with prostate cancer completed questions about their cancer history; treatment decision priorities; perceived knowledge, preparation, and involvement in the treatment decision process; and satisfaction with the treatment decision process and outcomes.
- Analytic procedures included Spearman's correlation, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests, repeated measures ANOVA, and paired sample t-tests.

## PARTICIPANTS

	N = 72	MI n	SD / %
Age (range: 50-85)		64.6	7.4
Non-Hispanic White		68	94%
Education			
College degree or higher		49	68%
Received care at academic or comprehensive cancer center		19	26%
Stage at diagnosis			
Stage 0-III		41	57%
Stage IV		15	21%
I don't know		15	21%
Years since diagnosis		4.9	4.2
Cancer has recurred		16	22%
Erectile dysfunction (n = 41)		32	44%

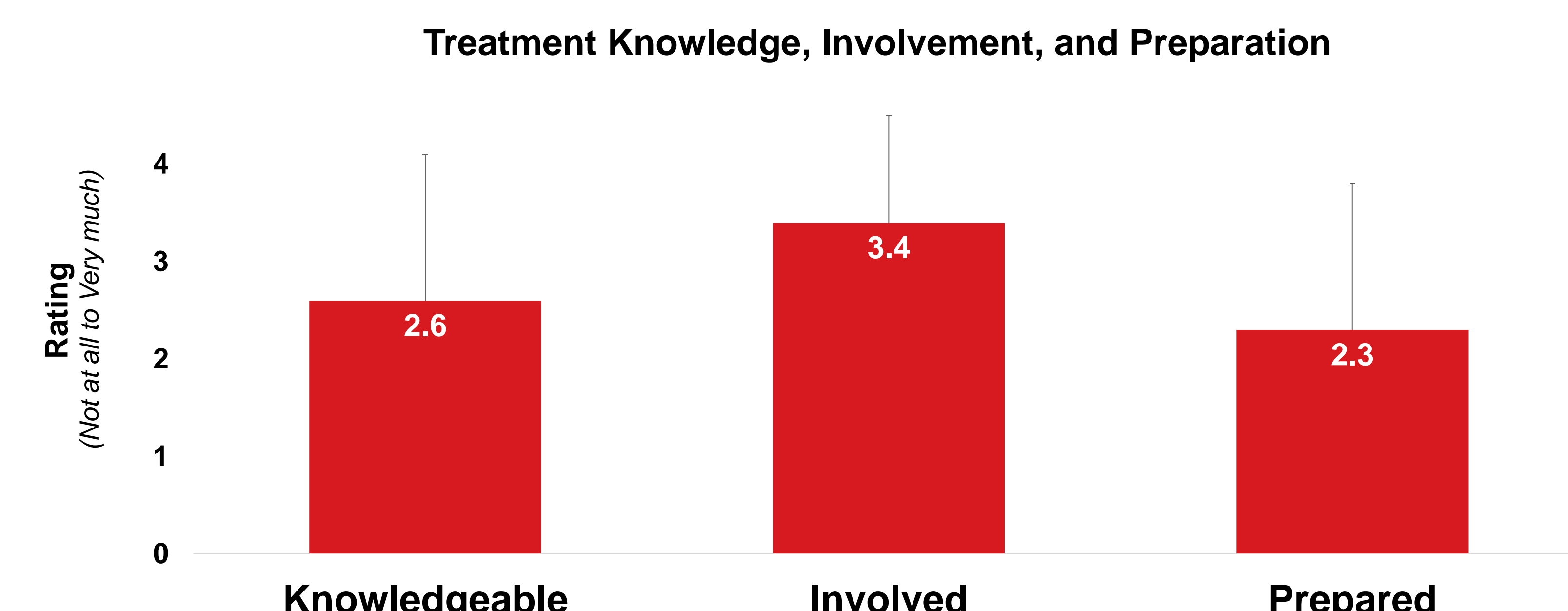
## RESULTS



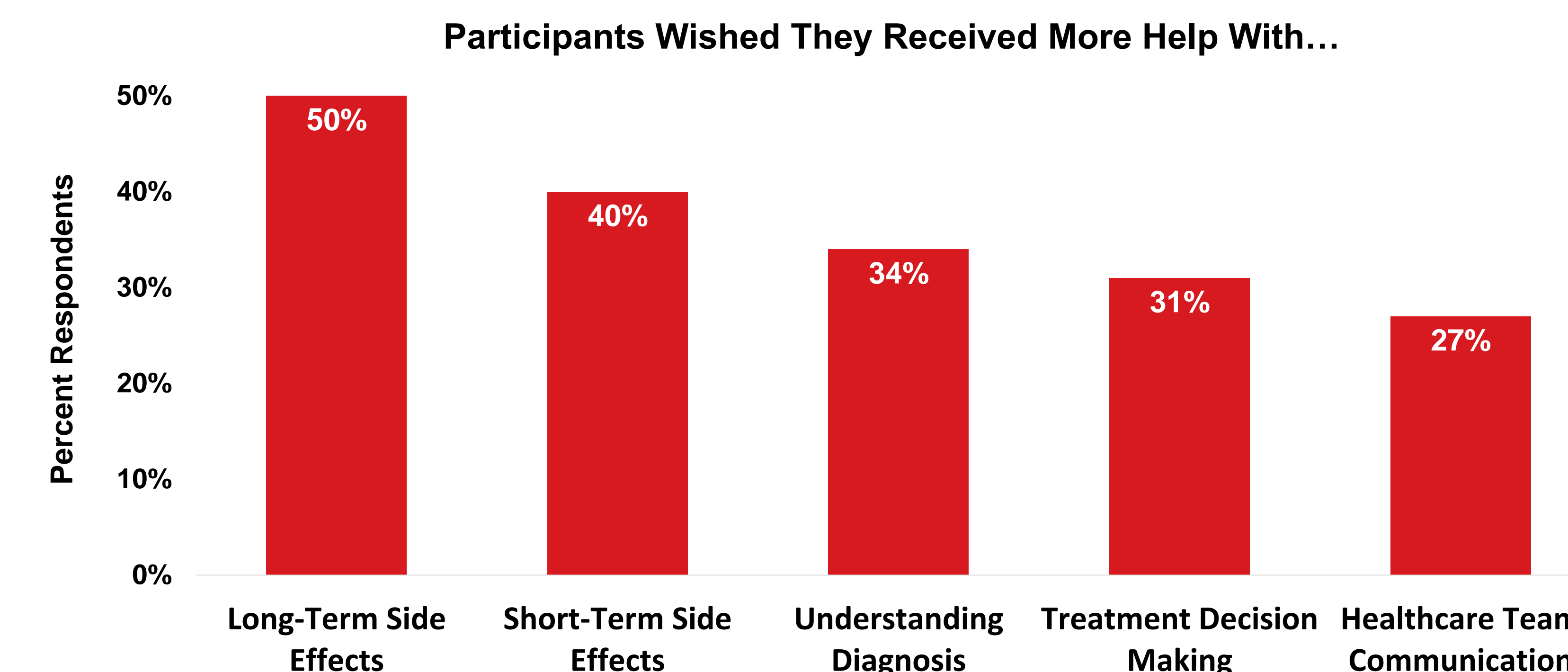
- The most important factor for making prostate cancer treatment decisions was quality of life; finances were rated as relatively less important ( $F=20.0$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p<.001$ )



- Participants were more satisfied with the treatment decision process than the outcomes of their treatment ( $F=7.44$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p<.01$ ).
- Treatment decision process satisfaction was correlated with knowledge before making a treatment decision ( $\rho = 0.55$ ) and level of involvement in the decision ( $\rho=0.52$ ,  $ps<.001$ )
- Treatment outcome satisfaction was lower among those reporting erectile dysfunction ( $z=2.8$ ,  $p<.01$ )



- Participants reported being more involved in their treatment decision than feeling knowledgeable about treatment options or prepared to discuss treatment options with their physician ( $ps<.01$ )



- Participants most frequently wished for additional assistance with managing long-term and short-term side effects of their cancer or cancer treatment

## IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- Quality of life is an important component of treatment decision making for older adult prostate cancer survivors; healthcare providers are encouraged to elicit survivors' perspectives on this matter during treatment planning and throughout the course of treatment.
- Results from the present study support early, active, and ongoing engagement of patients regarding the possible consequences of prostate cancer treatment; healthcare teams and patient advocacy organizations are encouraged to support enhancing survivors' knowledge and preparation regarding treatment decisions through educational programming and engagement.
- Survivorship care planning should include emphasis on symptom management strategies; additional research examining patients' experiences with and receptivity to palliative care is warranted.



A PROGRAM of the CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

The Cancer Experience Registry is an online research initiative that captures the immediate and ongoing or changing social and emotional experiences of cancer survivors and their caregivers.

- The Registry is for all cancer survivors and caregivers, but also includes 11 disease-specific surveys.
- Findings contribute toward advancing research, health care and policy.
- Over 10,100 cancer survivors and caregivers are registered in the Cancer Experience Registry.

Learn more or join the Registry at [www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org](http://www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org)

### Acknowledgments

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### References

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