

Religious involvement in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy : A longitudinal study



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BACKGROUND AND AIM

In a holistic healthcare paradigm, the assessment of patients' religiosity should be considered in clinical practice (Southard, 2020). Most of cancer patients have considered religion vital and in addition is associated with patient quality of life and lower anxiety (Panzini et al., 2017).

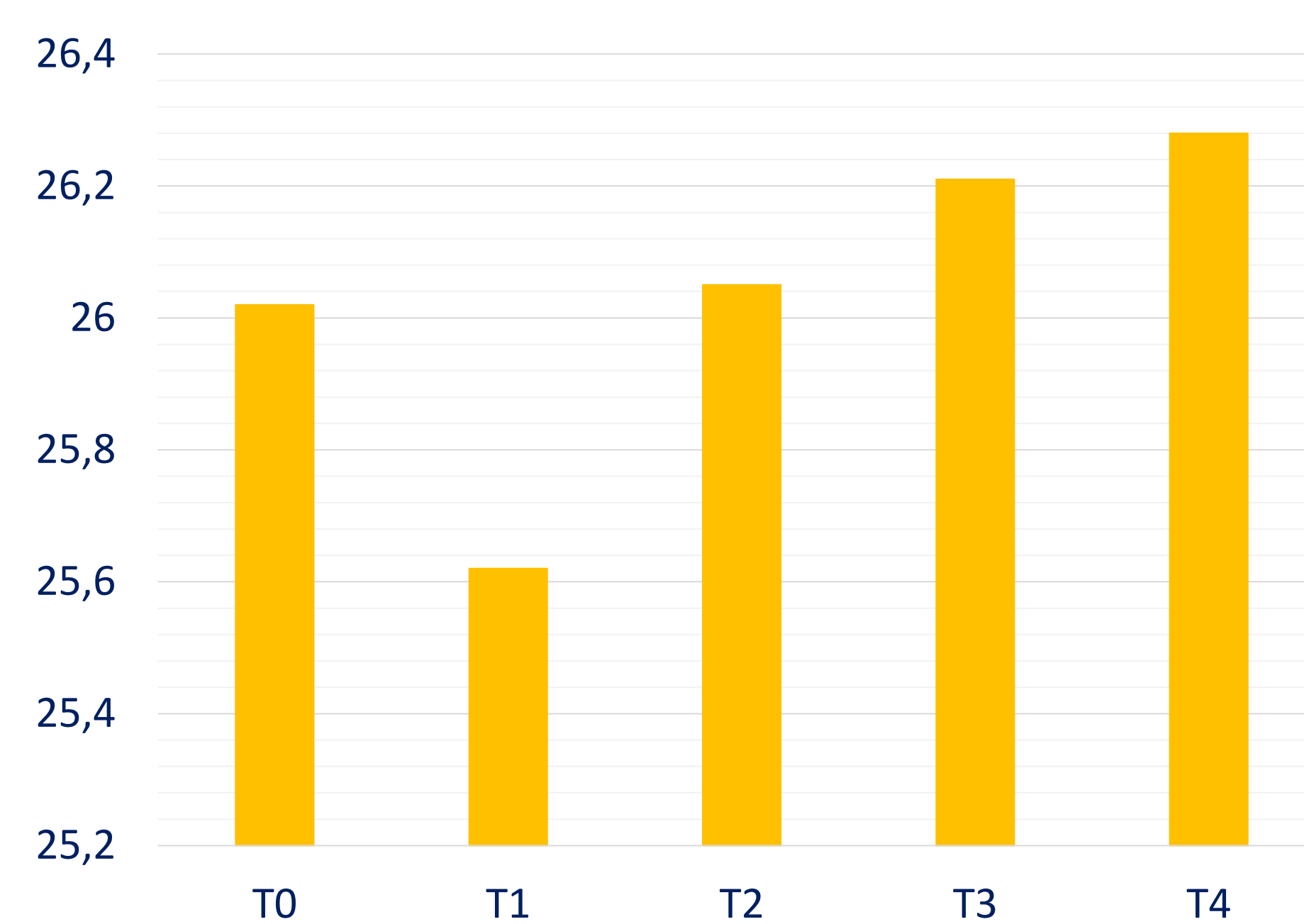
AIM: To assess the religious involvement in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy before starting chemotherapy, after three months, six months, nine months and twelve months.

METHODS

Study	Participants	Sampling	Data collection	Data analysis	Ethics issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative Observational Longitudinal study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 332 cancer patients before receiving chemotherapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random sampling technique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between February 2019 and May 2020. Questionnaire - Belief into Action (BIAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written consent by the participants Ethical committee approved the study

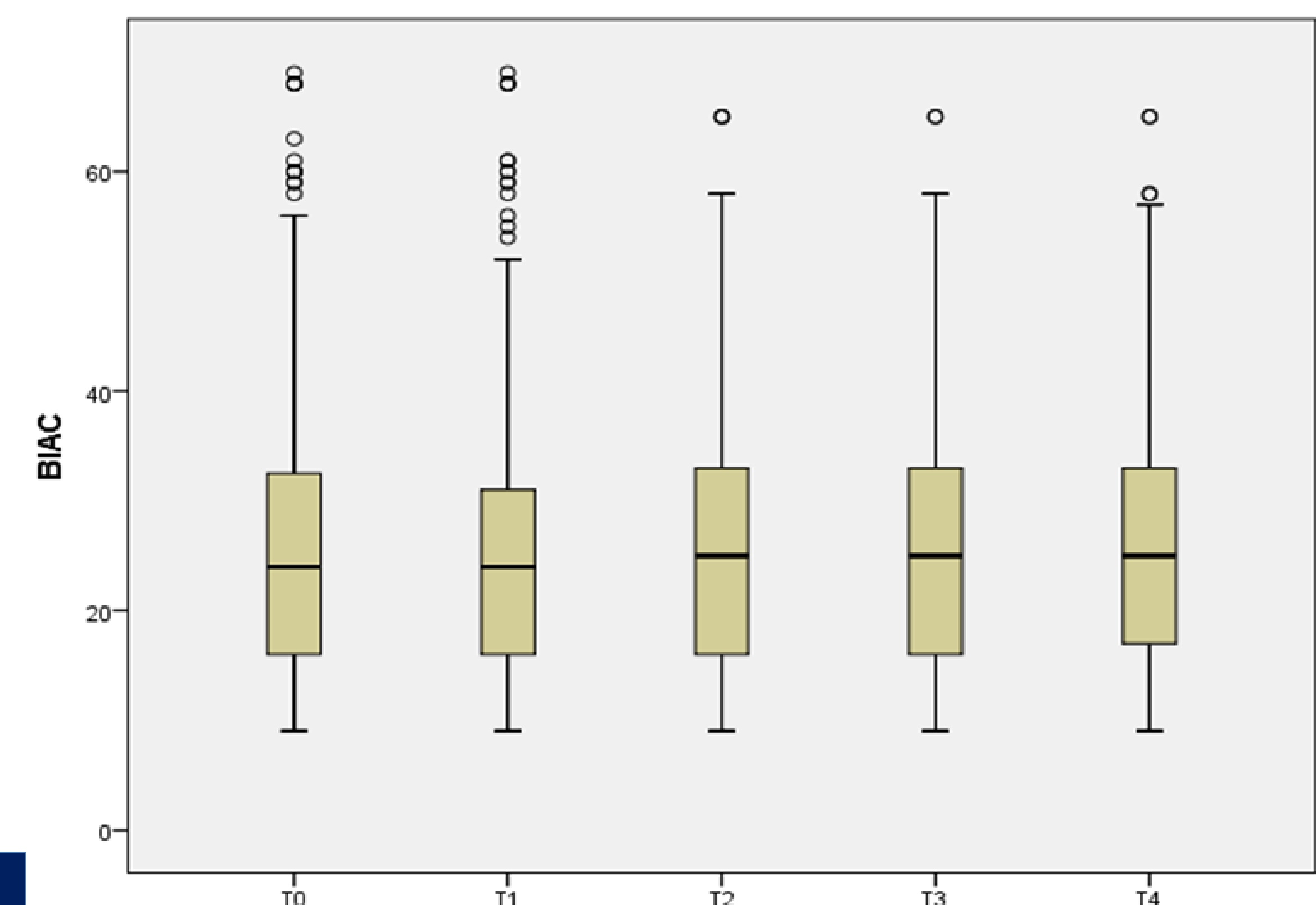
RESULTS

Sample characteristics baseline (N=332)	
Gender	56.60% females
Mean age	60.25 (SD=± 11.73)
Age range	22 to 83
Marital status	66.30 % married
Occupation	41.4% retired
Religious affiliation	93.7%
Roman Catholic	86.7%
Tumor stage	I – 5.1% II – 16.9% III – 45.5% IV – 32.5%



Graph 1 BIAC scores.

Mean Ranks	
T0 (before chemotherapy)	3.16
T1 (after three months of chemotherapy)	2.66
T2 (after six months of chemotherapy)	3.06
T3 (after nine months of chemotherapy)	3.07
T4 (after twelve months of chemotherapy)	3.10



Graph 2 Scatter dot of BIAC scores.

Attrition of the sample → 17.5%

The results ($\chi^2 = 49.501$; $df = 4$; $p < 0.001$) show that there are **statistically significant differences** ($p < 0.05$)

CONCLUSION

The religious involvement of cancer patients plays an important role throughout chemotherapy. These results also emphasize the need of awareness by the healthcare professionals concerning that the first three months after initiating chemotherapy are crucial for the religious belief system of the patients.