

PROSTATE CANCER AND THE IMPACT ON COUPLES: A QUALITATIVE METASYNTHESIS

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Introduction

- Prostate cancer (PCa) is the most common cancer in men in the UK [1] and the second most common cancer worldwide [2].
- Increasing numbers of men are living with and beyond their diagnosis and experiencing long term impact of PCa and treatment [3].
- Often the primary source of support for men with PCa is their intimate partner [4]. Side effects of treatment and management of PCa often affects the couple's quality of life and dynamics of their intimate relationship.
- Better understanding of the experiences of couples affected by PCa is needed to establish and provide the most effective support for them.

Objective

To review and interpret existing qualitative literature on the experiences' of couples affected by PCa.

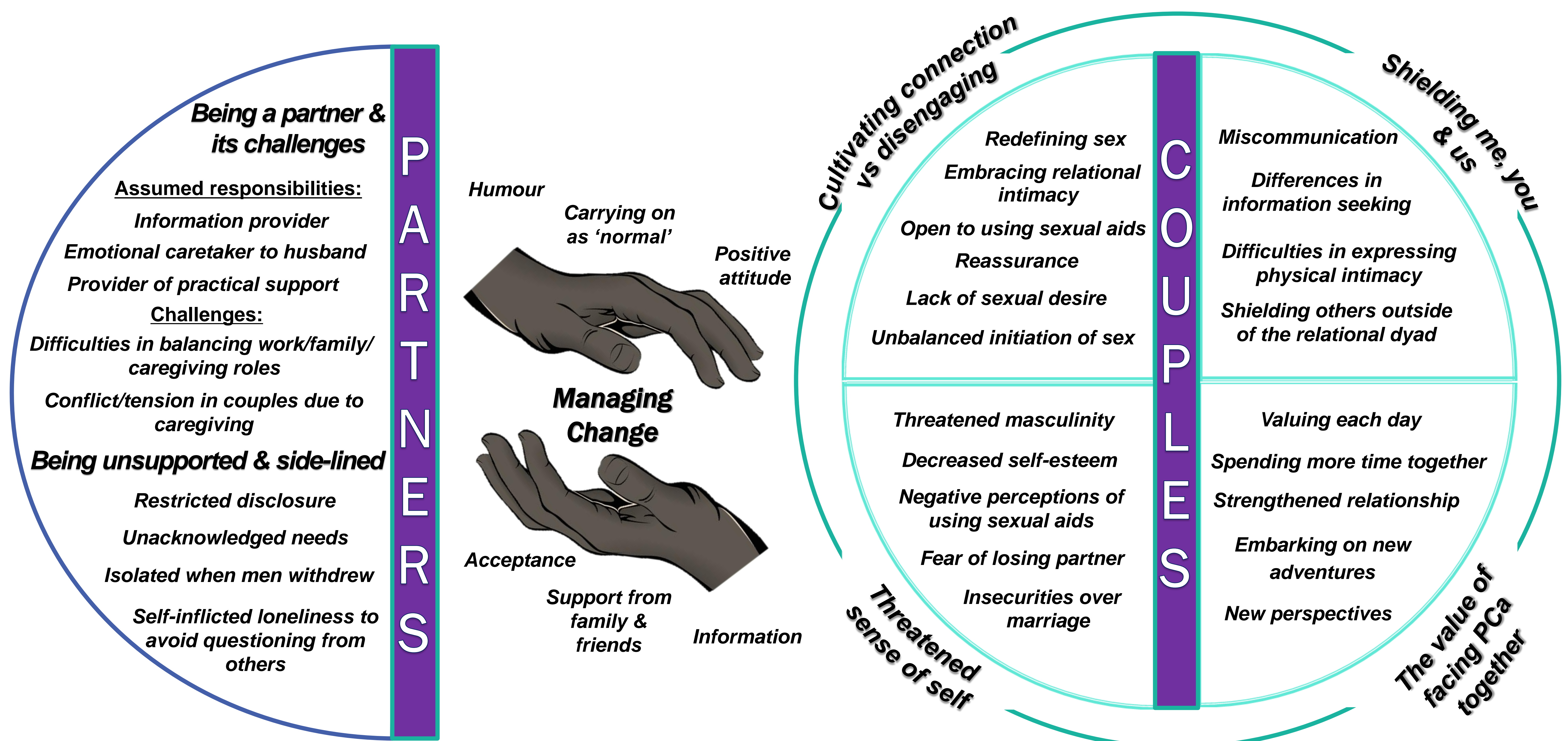
Method

- This systematic qualitative metasynthesis draws upon Noblit and Hare's meta-ethnographic approach [5].
- Data synthesis included studies that focussed on the experiences of men with PCa and their partners to inform overarching interpretations.



Results

- Thirty-four relevant studies were included.
- Study samples lacked recruitment of couples with ethnic diversity and same-sex couples.
- Seven constructs were developed from the studies included and are highlighted below.



Conclusions

PCa presents many challenges for both the individual members of the couple and their relationship. Healthcare services should recognise: 1) that individual members of the couple may have different needs, 2) the importance of employing a couple focussed approach when highlighting support services.

More studies are needed that include larger samples of participants from diverse ethnic backgrounds and same-sex couples.

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References: please go to <http://goo.gl/nVUupQ>