

# PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY



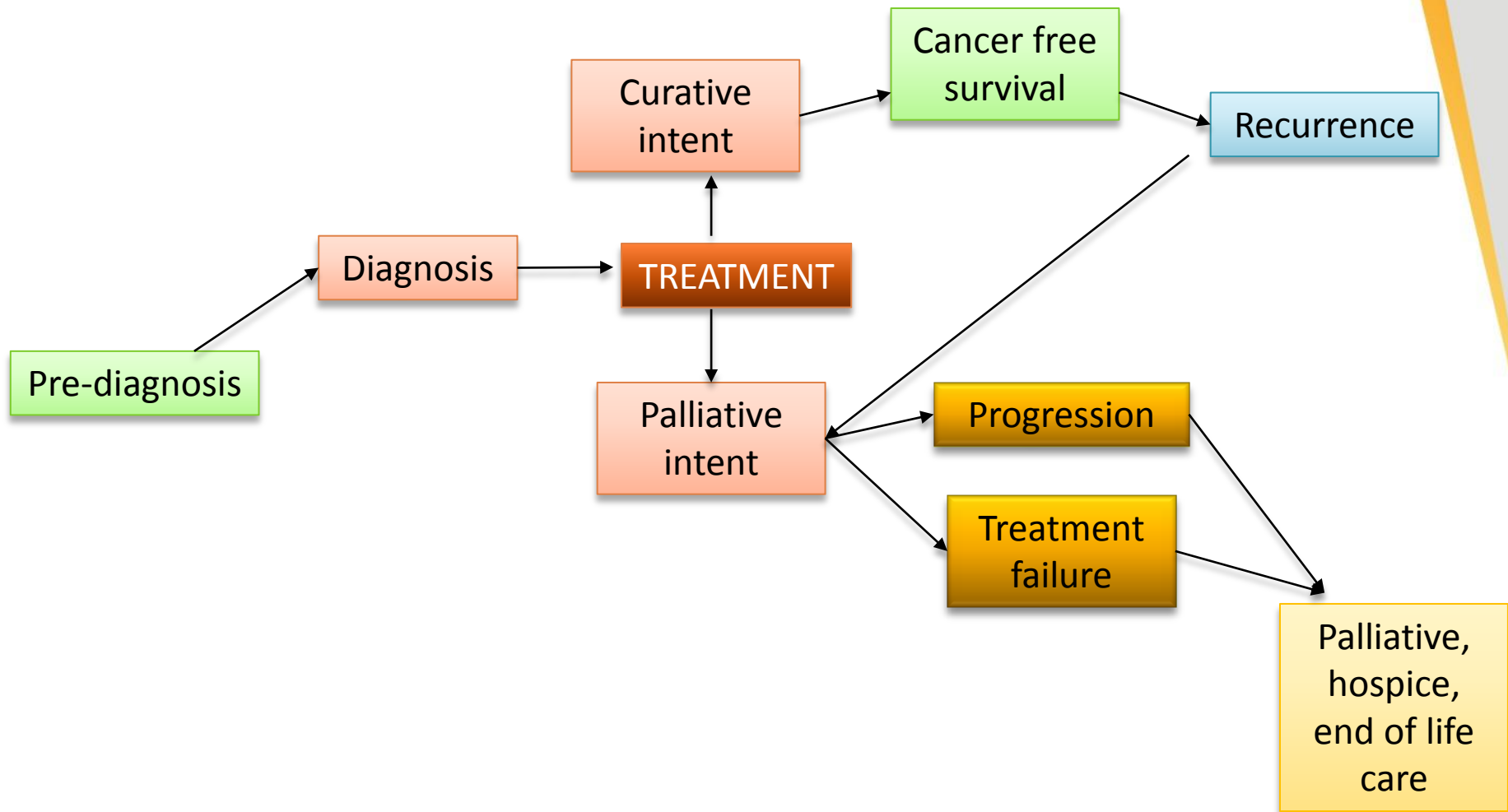
**DR. JAYITA DEODHAR**

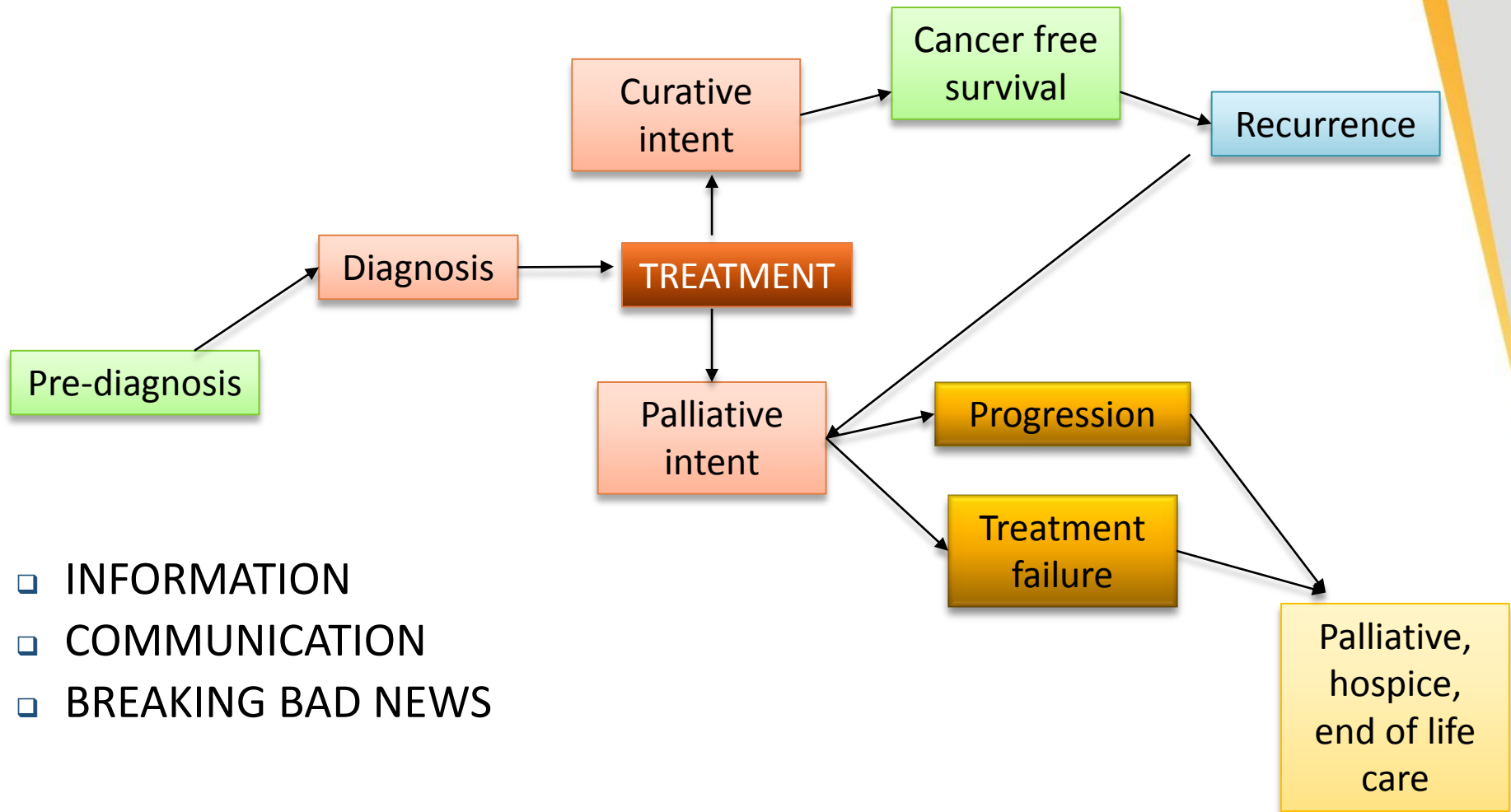
PROF & PHY (PSYCHIATRY)

AD HOC OFFICER IN CHARGE, DEPT OF PALLIATIVE  
MEDICINE

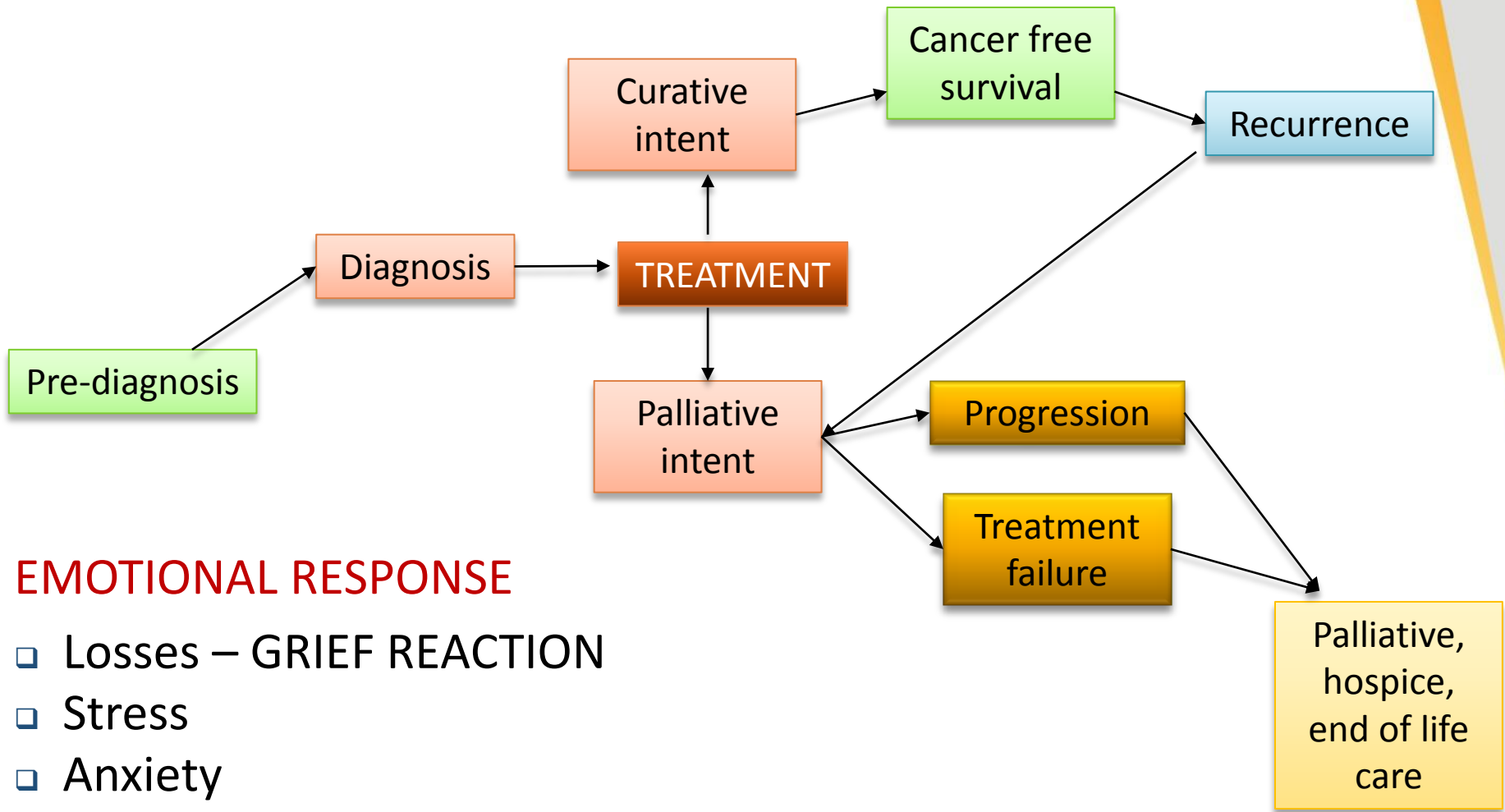
TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL







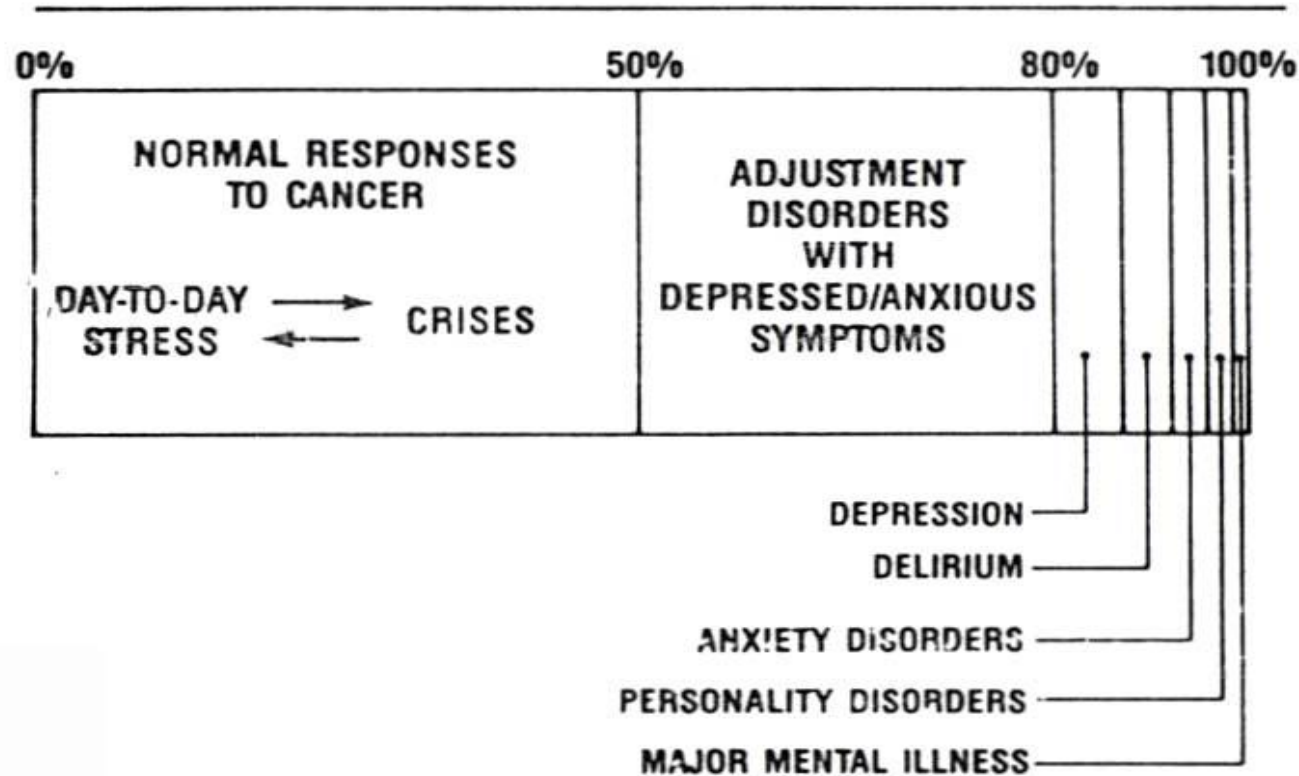
- ❑ INFORMATION
- ❑ COMMUNICATION
- ❑ BREAKING BAD NEWS



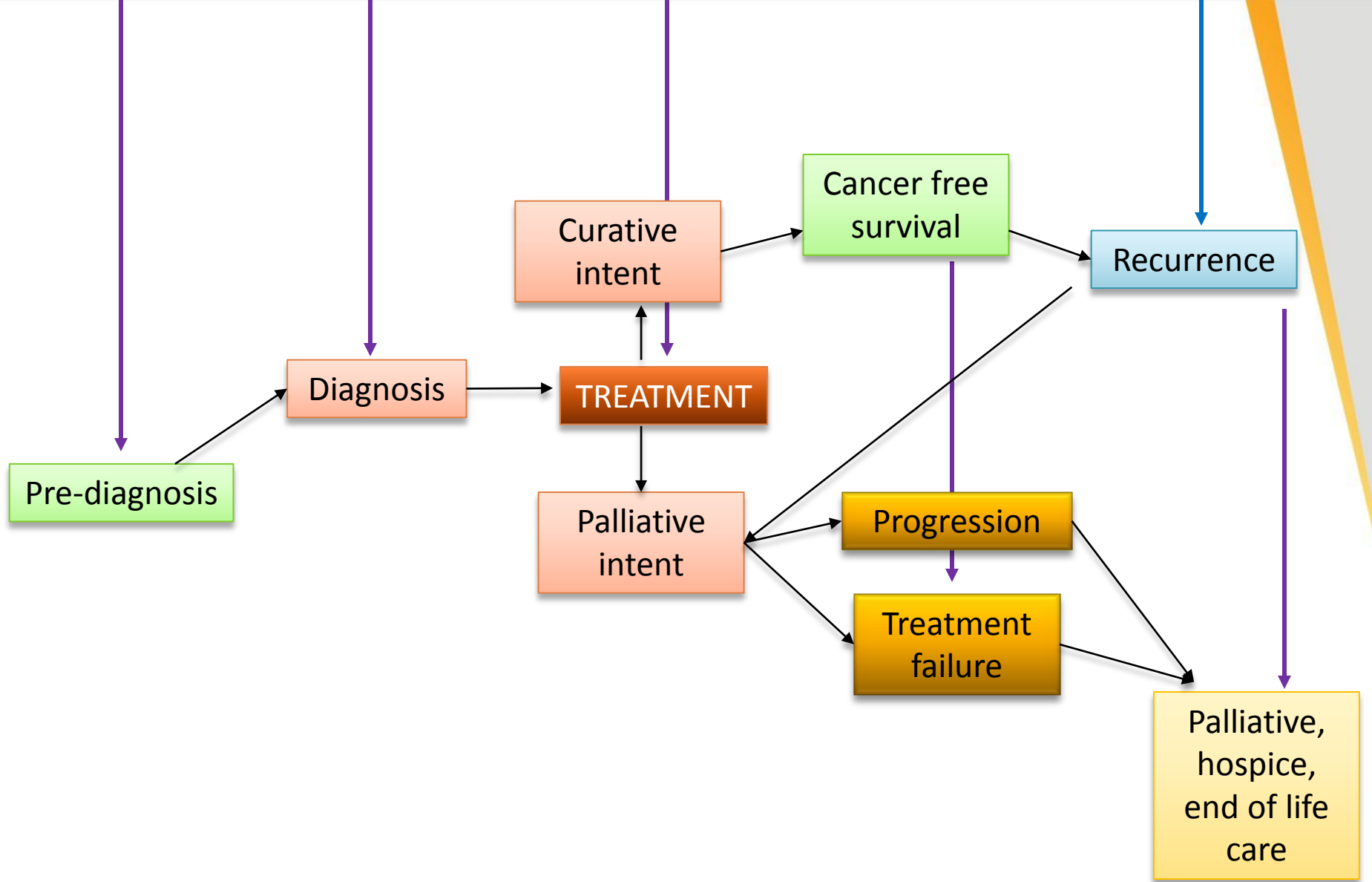
## EMOTIONAL RESPONSE

- ❑ Losses – GRIEF REACTION
- ❑ Stress
- ❑ Anxiety
- ❑ Depression

# DIAGNOSIS – Normal, distress or disorder?



NEW OR PREEXISTING?



- ❑ **Derogatis' PSYCOG (1983): DSM-III**
  - 11% prior psych diagnosis
  - 89% response to cancer
  
- ❑ **47% Psychiatric Disorder Rate**
  - **13% major depression**
  - 68% adjustment disorder (anx, dep)
  - 8% delirium

# Adjustment disorders

- ❑ 16-42% in cancer patients
- ❑ Course – 21% developed major depression within 5 years
- ❑ Treatment – relaxation, individual therapy
- ❑ Use of medications if required



# DEPRESSION

- ❑ Rate 2-3 times higher than in general population, as that associated with other serious medical illnesses (Caruso et al 2017)
- ❑ Pooled mean prevalence in a meta-analysis 8-24% (diff cancer, diff stages) (Krebber et al 2015)
- ❑ DSM defined – 14.9% MDD, 19.4% Adjustment Disorder (Mitchell et al, 2011)
- ❑ Negative impact on treatment adherence, quality of life, subjective severity of physical symptoms
- ❑ Cancer types associated with depression – oropharyngeal, pancreatic, lung and breast
- ❑ Diagnosis

# RISK FACTORS FOR DEPRESSION

## Individual

- Family or personal history, personality and coping

## Interpersonal and social

- Stressful LE, lack of social support, low SES

Biological - type, stage, uncontrolled physical symptoms, inflammatory factors, treatment related

# TREATMENT FOR DEPRESSION – STEPPED CARE APPROACH

**Step 4:** Complex depression\* with suicidality, self-neglect or psychosis

Psychiatric admission, combined treatments, electroconvulsive therapy

**Step 3:** Persistent subthreshold depressive symptoms or mild to moderate major depression with inadequate response to initial interventions; initial presentation of severe major depression

Medication, high-intensity psychosocial interventions, collaborative care

**Step 2:** Persistent subthreshold depressive symptoms; mild to moderate major depression

Low-intensity psychosocial interventions, medication as needed

**Step 1:** All known and suspected presentations of depression

Support, psycho-education, active monitoring and referral for further assessment and interventions

# ANTIDEPRESSANTS

- ❑ SSRIs –
  - Escitalopram
  - Fluoxetine, Paroxetine – CYP2D6 inhibition – avoid with Tamoxifen
- ❑ SNRIs – Venlafaxine/desvenlafaxine
- ❑ NaSSA- Mirtazapine
- ❑ TCAs – neuropathic pain
- ❑ Psychostimulants –

# ANXIETY

## PSYCHIATRIC

Agitation, depression, delirium

## ORGANIC

Cardiac causes, metabolic, hypoxia, sepsis, pain, drug withdrawal

## EXISTENTIAL

Dependency, disfigurement, death

## IATROGENIC

Drug side-effects

# ANXIETY

- ❑ Often comorbid with depression
- ❑ BDZ
- ❑ Alprazolam – mixed cancers in RCT
- ❑ Clinical practice – Lorazepam, clonazepam
- ❑ Close monitoring of adverse effects

# DELIRIUM

- ❑ Neuropsychiatric diagnosis
- ❑ 25-85% in palliative medicine, higher in end of life
- ❑ Usually irreversible in end of life

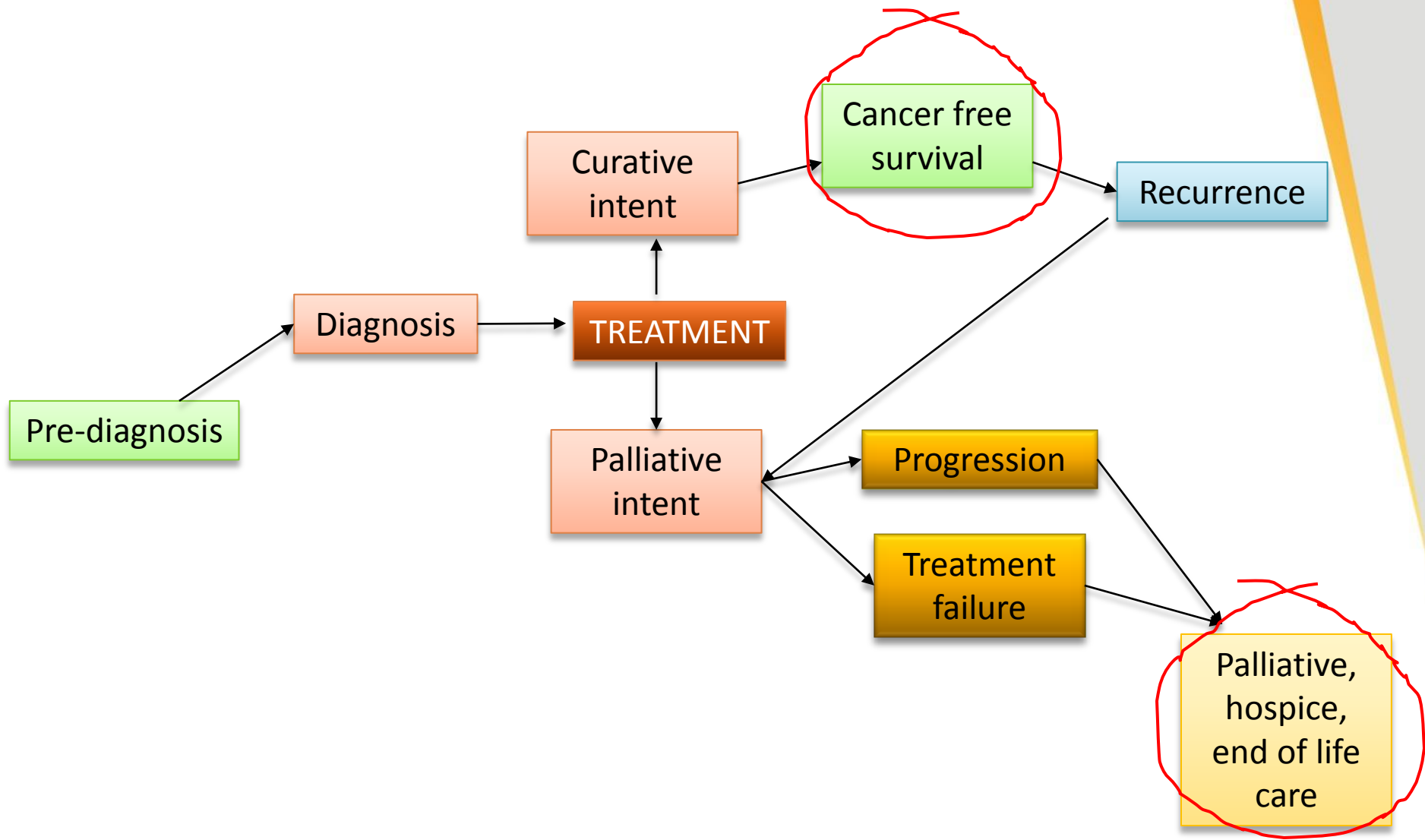
# Other concerns

- ❑ Body image and sexuality
- ❑ Fear of cancer recurrence
- ❑ Substance use disorders
- ❑ Psychotic and Bipolar affective disorders – pre-existent or new



# EVIDENCE BASED PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS IN CANCER CARE

- ❑ Supportive expressive
- ❑ Educational
- ❑ Cognitive behavioural
- ❑ Stress reduction
- ❑ Problem solving
- ❑ Expressive arts based
  
- ❑ Specialised psychotherapies – Meaning centred therapy, Dignity therapy, CALM – RCTs



# SURVIVORS – ARE THEY OUT OF THE WOODS?

## Clinical Ascertainment of Health Outcomes Among Adults Treated for Childhood Cancer

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Kevin R. Krull, PhD

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Deo Kumar Srivastava, PhD

Leslie L. Robison, PhD

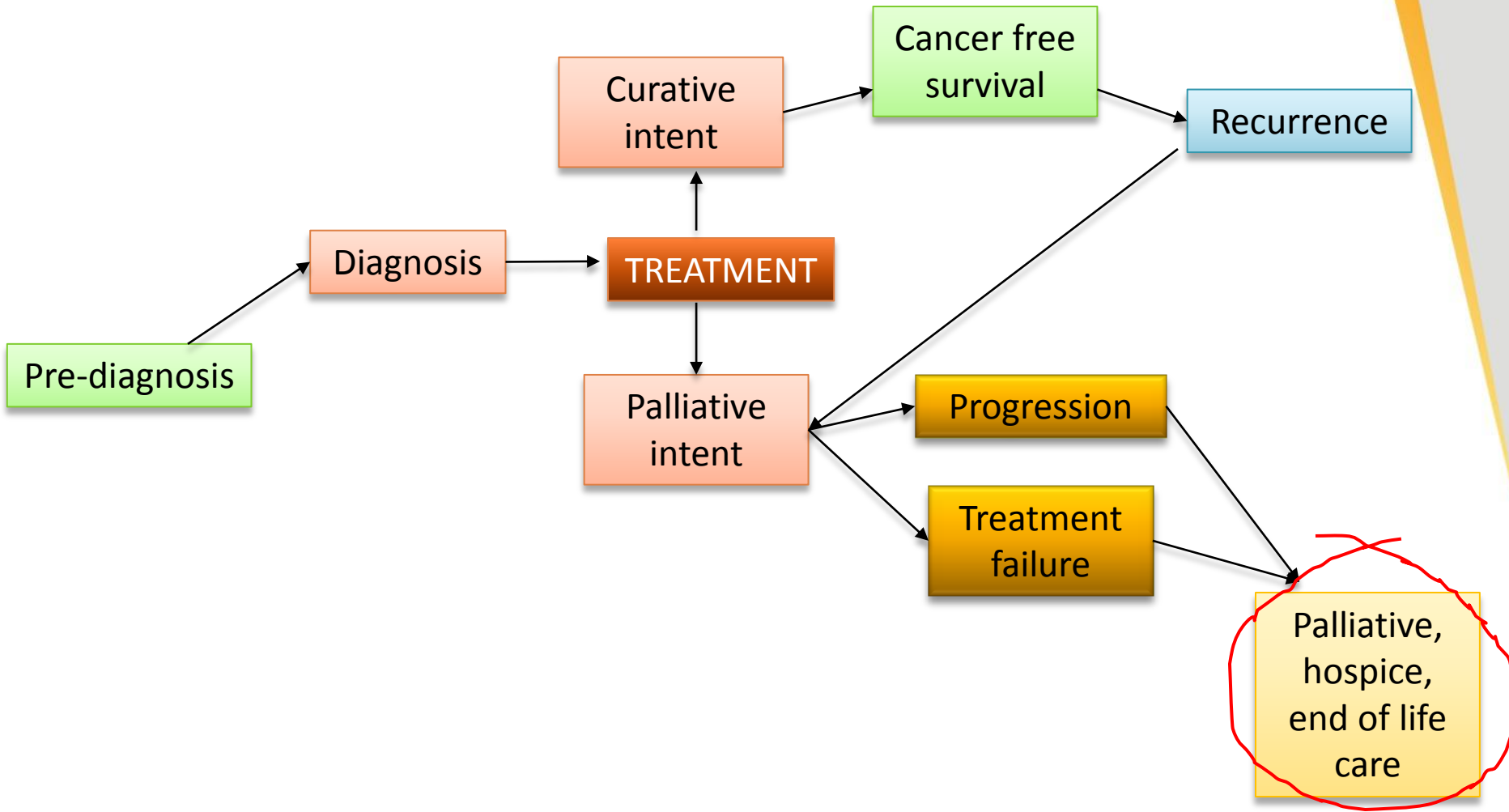
**Importance** Adult survivors of childhood cancer are known to be at risk for treatment-related adverse health outcomes. A large population of survivors has not been evaluated using a comprehensive systematic clinical assessment to determine the prevalence of chronic health conditions.

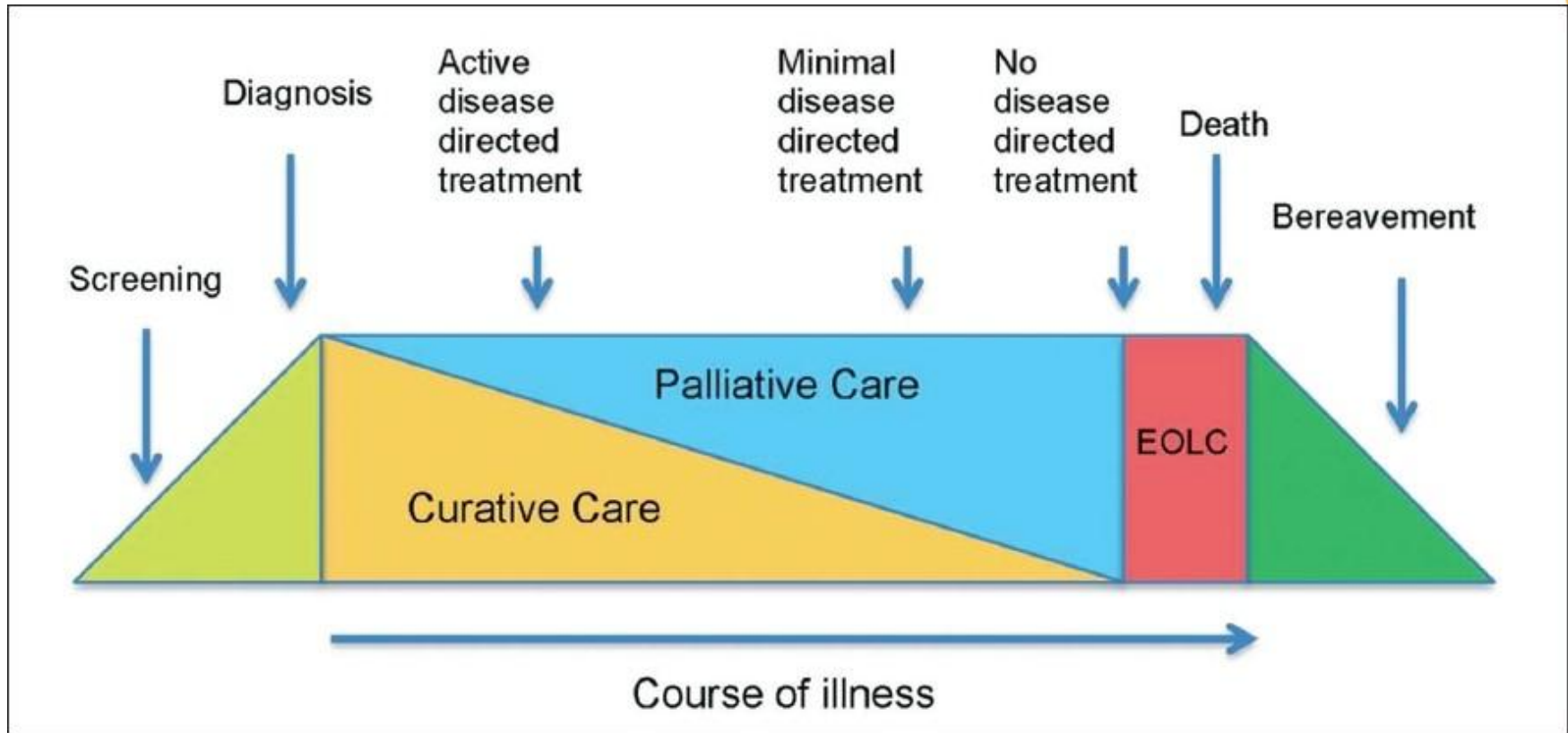
**Objective** To determine the prevalence of adverse health outcomes and the proportion associated with treatment-related exposures in a large cohort of adult survivors of childhood cancer.

**Design, Setting, and Participants** Presence of health outcomes was ascertained using systematic exposure-based medical assessments among 1713 adult (median age, 32 [range, 18-60] years) survivors of childhood cancer (median time from diagnosis, 25 [range, 10-47] years) enrolled in the St Jude Lifetime Cohort Study since October 1, 2007, and undergoing follow-up through October 31, 2012.

**Main Outcomes and Measures** Age-specific cumulative prevalence of adverse outcomes by organ system.

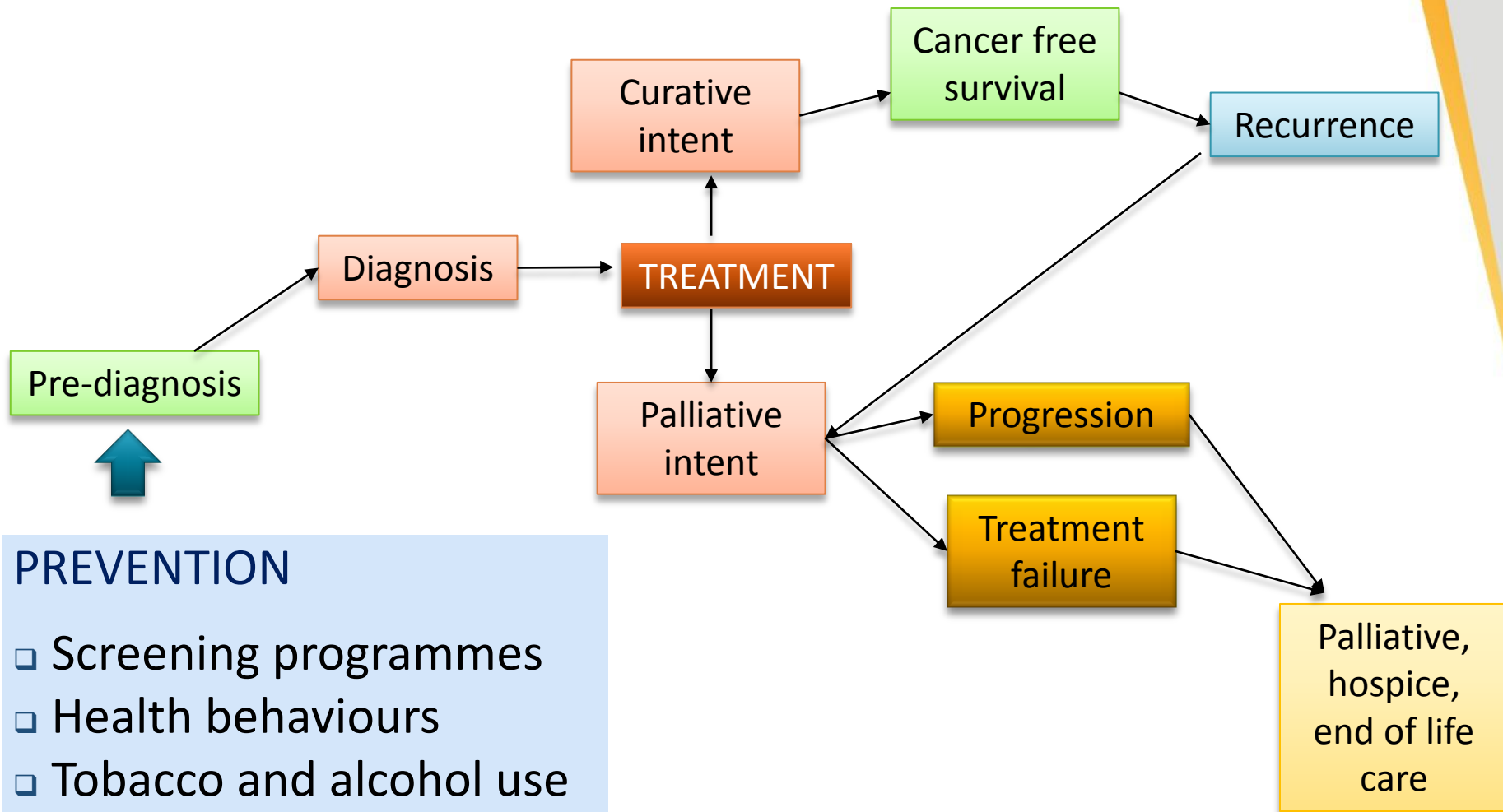
**Results** Using clinical criteria, the crude prevalence of adverse health outcomes was highest for pulmonary (abnormal pulmonary function, 65.2% [95% CI, 60.4%-





# Universal concepts.....influenced by culture

- ❑ Existential
- ❑ Spiritual
- ❑ Meaning in life
- ❑ The other side of the coin – Post traumatic growth, Resilience



## PREVENTION

- ❑ Screening programmes
- ❑ Health behaviours
- ❑ Tobacco and alcohol use
- ❑ Genetic counselling

# STAFF STRESS AND BURNOUT

- ❑ Loss of commitment, negative attitude to patients and staff and self, role dissatisfaction
- ❑ Oncology/ICU/Mental health > Palliative care professionals
- ❑ Importance of self-care



# OUR ROLE

- ❑ Person-centred approach
- ❑ Bio-psychosocio environmental approach
- ❑ Predisposing, precipitating and perpetuating factors

*Progress has been made in recent years for integrating psychosocial care into routine cancer care, but more work is needed.*