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**EFFECTS OF MUSIC LISTENING ON PAIN PERCEPTION IN CANCER
PATIENTS: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

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ABSTRACT

The use of music in pain management as a form of analgesia has become popular in the last half a century. Patients have demonstrated significant results in studies involving the use of music with post-operative surgery, dentistry, spinal cord injuries, pediatric treatments, and chronic pain. Regardless of the approach used to examine the effects of music listening on pain, there are many reasons why there is need for continued research on this subject. Studies in Phenomenology, Psychology, Psycho-spirituality and Physiology all bring varied empirical and non-empirical evidence to the study. Musical structures are known to emanate from mental processes. Mental processes are both psychological and physiological while varied human experiences can add other constructs such as psycho-spiritual. However, the scientific study of music and pain perception is still in its stage of infancy while the practice of music as an agent of pain control is centuries old. This paper focuses on a systematic review of published literature on the subject matter of music listening and pain perception. The areas of presentation in this paper will include studies on patients receiving cancer treatments such bone marrow transplants (BMTs). The other aspects of the literature will focus on mechanisms of the auditory nervous system in the context of the Gate Control Theory. The last segment will focus on the implications of findings from this literature to music education. [The author can be reached at dakombo@isqrm.com]