

Examining Patient Education Needs Related to Lung Cancer Treatment: Age-Related Analysis in 9 Nursing-Sensitive Patient Outcomes

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BACKGROUND

Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in the US and utilizes a vast proportion of health care resources. It is estimated from SEER data that \$9.6 billion is spent in treatment of lung cancer annually. Developments in treatment have led to complex multi-modality therapies, posing a challenge to increasingly busy nurses in addressing patients' educational needs. In addition, there are now more elderly patients requiring education as the medically-fit elderly are more likely to be offered treatment than in the past. Little is known about patients' perspectives on which educational needs are being met and which are not.

Education of lung cancer patients addresses symptoms of disease and treatment side effects. This patient education is an important component of the interventions that ONS defines as Nursing Sensitive Patient Outcomes (NSPO's). "Nursing-sensitive outcomes are those outcomes arrived at, or significantly impacted, by nursing interventions." In recognizing that oncology nurses are accountable for measuring the end results of their care and improving the results over time, ONS has identified NSPOs as a way of measuring the effects of nursing care as they result in a change in the patient's experience. This poster presents results of a survey that asks patients about their perception and satisfaction with the education they received (a nursing sensitive patient outcome).

PURPOSE

To provide patient perspective regarding their educational needs related to lung cancer treatment, and to compare perspective of patients younger than and older than 70 years.

METHODS

Patients completed an electronic survey regarding their satisfaction with education provided by their health care professionals. All patients who had registered for NexCura's NexProfiler Treatment Option Tool for Lung Cancer between August 2004 and March 2005 were invited by e-mail to participate. Patients were asked to rank each educational topic, including symptoms and adverse effects of treatment, on a scale from Very Satisfied through Very Dissatisfied.

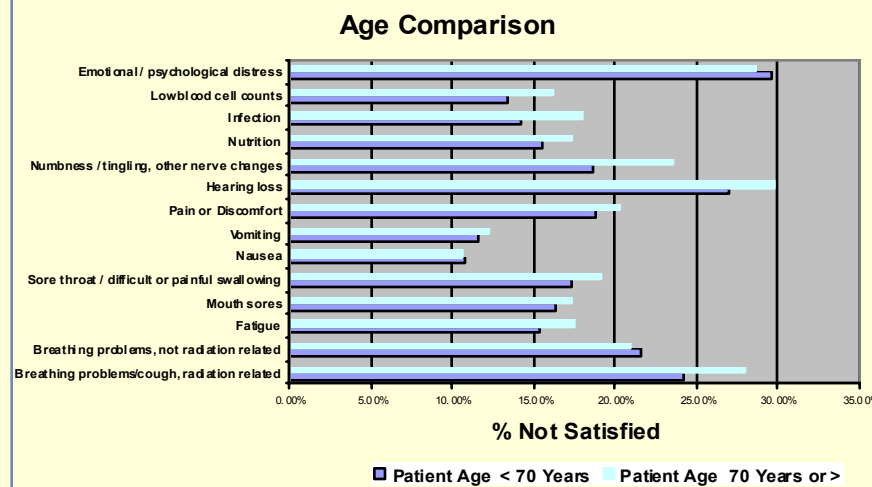
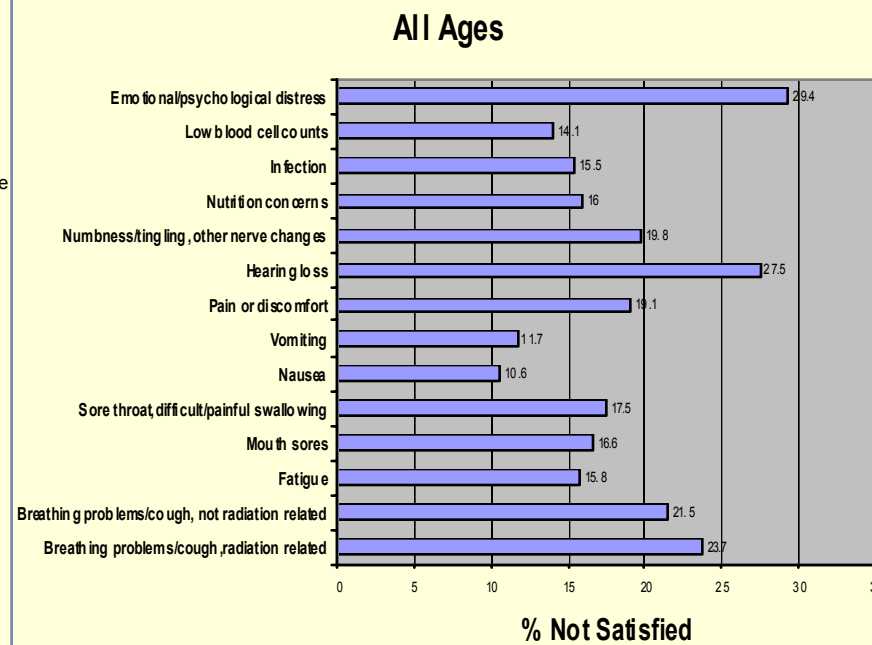
CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

	# (%)
Histology SCLC	417 (30.6)
NSCLC	945 (69.4)
Age <70	1039 (76.3)
70 or >	323 (23.7)
Stage Local/regional (Limited SCLC or I-III NSCLC)	476 (36.7)
Advanced (Extensive SCLC or IIIB-IV NSCLC)	705 (54.4)
Unknown to patient	115 (8.9)

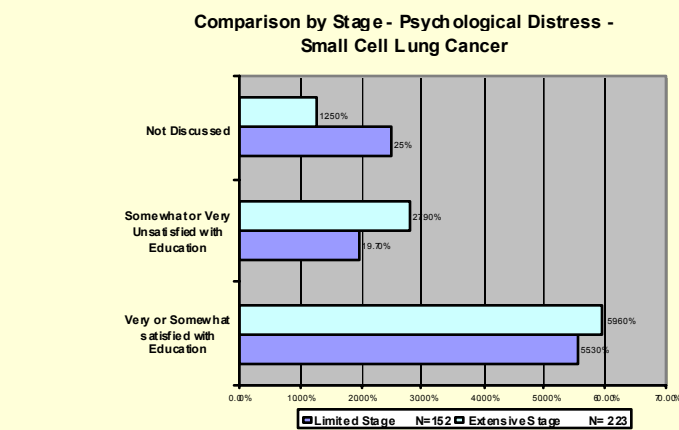
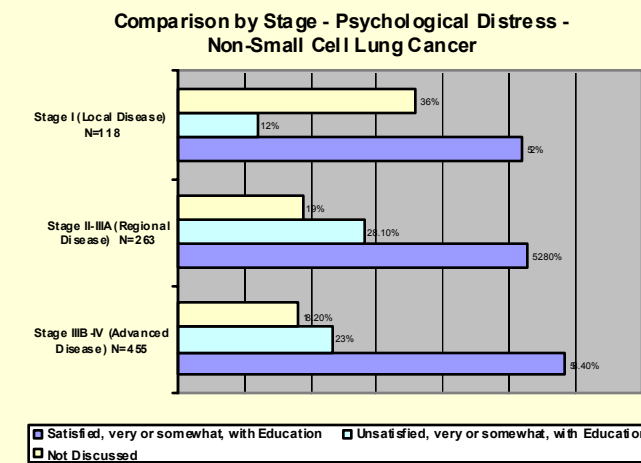
1,362 (13.2%) of the 10,317 invites completed the survey. The proportion of limited to advanced stage was typical of the U.S. population of patients with lung cancer, as was the proportion of patients younger than 70 years and 70 years or greater. The proportion of patients with Small Cell Lung Cancer (30.6%) was somewhat larger than the percentage of lung cancer patients with Small Cell in the US population (15-20%).

RESULTS

How satisfied are you with the level of information you received from your medical professionals about the following potential side effects of lung cancer treatments?



The topic of psychological distress was less likely to be discussed with patients with early-stage disease.



SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

This survey of lung cancer patients identified the following concerns related to patient education that nurses can use in planning and evaluating their educational efforts:

- Among all ages combined, dissatisfaction with education was greatest with the topics of psychosocial distress (29.4% +/- 2.76, 95%CI) and hearing loss (27.5% +/- 3.19, 95%CI). The topic with the least dissatisfaction was nausea/vomiting (10.6% +/- 1.75, 95%CI).

- Among patients < 70 years of age, greatest dissatisfaction was with psychosocial distress and hearing loss.

- Among patients of age ≥70 years, the most dissatisfaction was with psychosocial distress, hearing loss, and radiation-related dyspnea/cough.

- In this group of 1,362 patients, elderly patients' satisfaction with education was not significantly different from younger patients.

- The topic in which educational needs were met most consistently was nausea/vomiting.

- Findings support the need for improved education and support regarding all topics, especially hearing loss and psychosocial distress.

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