

Lung Cancer Patient's Perception of their Awareness of Treatment Options, Self-assessment of Knowledge and Level of Satisfaction with Pretreatment Education

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INTRODUCTION:

Making treatment decisions is complex for cancer patients and their families. Understanding treatment options is essential to making informed decisions when facing the serious challenge of lung cancer. The health care team plays an important role in providing this education. There is limited research describing whether patients feel informed and satisfied about treatment information. The purpose of this survey was to describe lung cancer patients' perceptions about their knowledge level and their satisfaction with treatment education.

METHODS :

Respondents were invited to complete an online survey about their level of knowledge and satisfaction with education regarding various treatment options. All patients with lung cancer who had registered to use NexCura®'s online NexProfiler® Treatment Option Tool for Lung Cancer were invited by email to participate in the survey. 1,361 individuals filled out an online survey between August 2004 and February 2005. 11.5% of surveys distributed were returned (1,361 of 11,828).

CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS:

Country of Residence:

US 86%
Canada 4%
UK 2%
Total # of countries 26

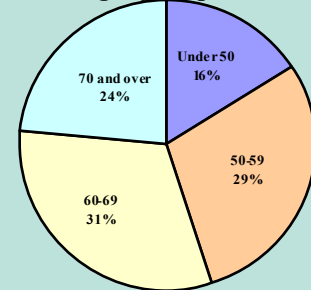
Education level:

Post-college 18%
Completed college 16%
Some post-high school 33%
Completed high school 26%
Less than high school 8%

Annual Household Income:

\$100,000 or greater 18%
\$60-99,000 24%
\$40-59,000 21%
\$21-39,000 22%
Less than \$20,000 14%

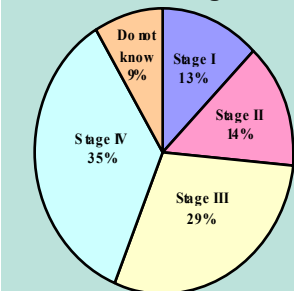
Age of Respondents:



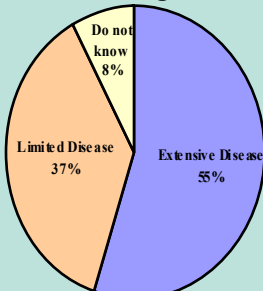
Ethnicity:

Caucasian 92%
Asian 2%
Black/African American 2%
Hispanic/Latino 2%

NSCLC Stage:



SCLC Stage:

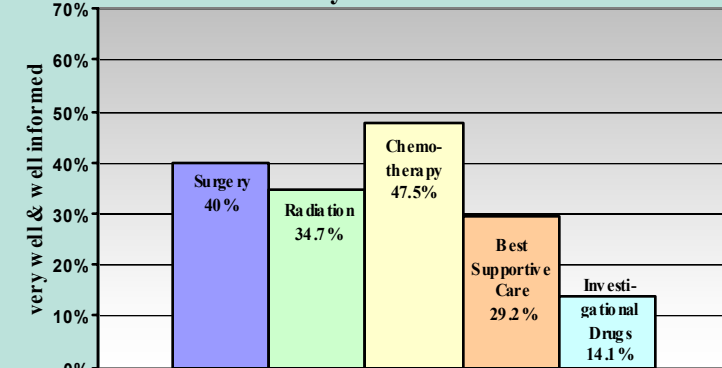


RESULTS:

Levels of information

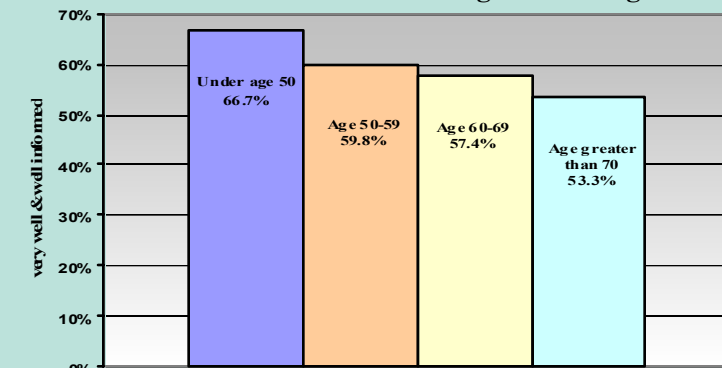
Survey respondents were asked to describe how well informed they felt about a series of topics related to lung cancer. These topics included issues important to understanding lung cancer as well as the treatments available.

How well informed are you about each of these treatments?



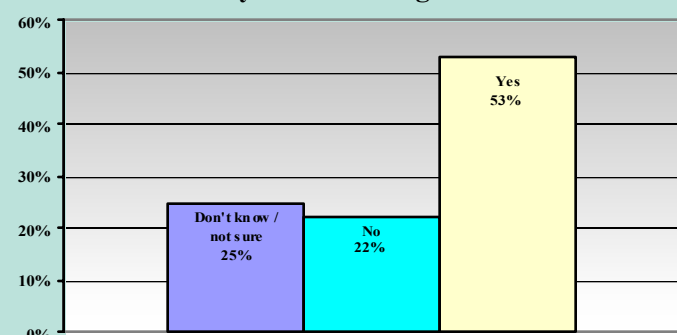
P < .0001

How well informed about lung cancer in general?



P < .01

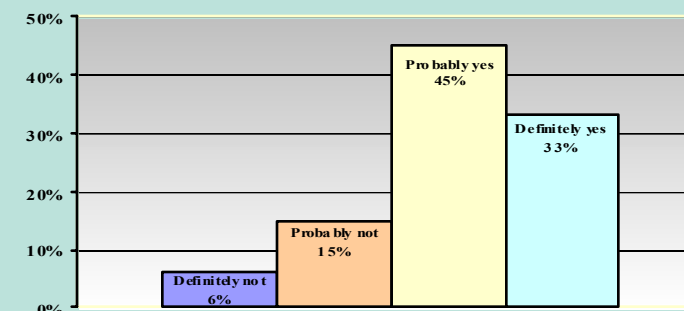
At the time of making your treatment decisions(s), did you feel then that you had enough information?



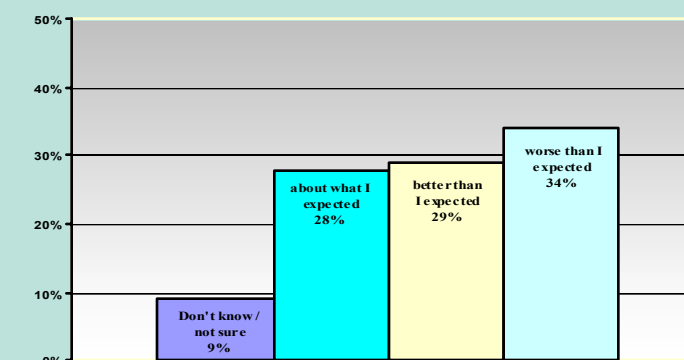
Treatment Experience

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions to determine their level of satisfaction with their experience. These included questions about how they felt about their treatment decisions, satisfaction with information provided by healthcare professionals, and quality of life expectations.

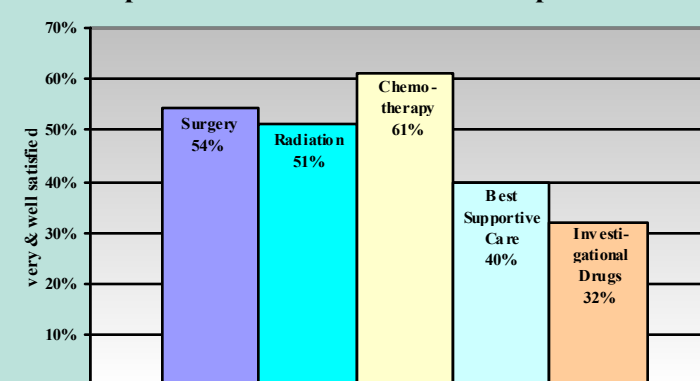
Would you make the same treatment decision again if you had the chance?



How much difference between expected and actual quality-of-life after cancer treatment?



How satisfied are you with information from medical professionals about treatment options?



P < .0001

Survey Respondents Comments:

Respondent's comments were rich with information not yet analyzed. Here are a few sample comments in response to the question "What would you have liked more information about before making treatment decisions?"

- we didn't understand most of the information. None of the information sources dealt with the fact that we were reeling from the news and barely coping.
- (would have liked) some help from one source knowing and advising in all options; The surgeon wanted to cut, chemo oncologist wanted to chemo me and the Radiologist, of course, wanted to do radiation. I had it all.
- (would have liked) realistic side effects information. Not just general such as diarrhea or constipation, too ambiguous
- I would have liked to have been informed of all my options and had them explained to me better.

CONCLUSIONS:

Treatment Options: In this on-line survey of 1,361 patients with lung cancer, patients felt more informed about chemotherapy than other treatment types (P < .0001) and more satisfied with information received about chemotherapy than other treatment options (P < .0001)

Elderly Patients: Patients 70 and older were less likely than those under 70 to fully understand lung cancer in general. (P < .01)

Quality of Life: A large number of patients (34%) responded that their quality of life was "worse than I expected" following treatment.

Nursing Implications:

The health care team, including nurses, commonly provides extensive and even formal education about chemotherapy. This survey suggests that patients receive less education about other treatment options. Additional questions raised for our clinical practice include:

- If we are not individually prepared to teach patients about all of their treatment options, are other resources available?
 - How can we tailor individual learning experiences to reach differing needs of diverse patient and family populations (elderly) at this difficult and emotional time?
 - What is an acceptable level of knowledge and satisfaction with education? Is a 60%, or 80%, level of satisfaction adequate?
- Further analysis of this data is in progress. Large online data bases such as this may provide substantial opportunity for additional research.

Sponsor:



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NexCura is a health care education and information company that develops proprietary, Web-based, clinical decision-support tools. You can find the NexProfiler Cancer Treatment Options Tools at www.cancerfacts.com and on many other cancer websites.