

SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER CONFERENCE DECEMBER 2009

[5048] Determining Issues of Importance for Patients with Breast Cancer: Results of a Web-Based Study in 1072 Patients To Enhance the Content Validity for the Development of a New Health-Related Quality of Life (QL) Instrument, the Breast Cancer Symptom Scale (BCSS).

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Background:

Identifying key issues for patients with malignancy is central to assessing QL and patient reported outcomes during all points of the illness trajectory. The involvement of patients in establishing content validity is crucial for instrument development. The conceptual model for the BCSS focuses on areas of importance for patients (Hollen, Supp Care Ca 1994).

Methods:

We used the established patient base of the web-based NexCura information resource to survey registered patients with breast cancer. Demographic stratifications included disease stage, age, menopausal status, time since diagnosis, prior/current treatment with surgery, RT, chemotherapy, hormonal, targeted, and CAM approaches. 1072 patients (median age 53, 65% stage I, 43% > 2 years since diagnosis) completed the anonymous web-conducted survey. Patients ranked 21 issues on a 5-point scale, assessing the importance of each item. Issues included general, physical, functional, psychosocial and summative items.

Results:

The 9 highest ranked items are seen below. Results are described by the percent of patients choosing the top category (very important) and the top 2 importance categories. The five lowest ranked items dealt with appetite, breast-specific issues, hot flashes and sexuality. Ratings by breast cancer subsets (newly diagnosed, on treatment, NED, hormonal or non-hormonal treatment, metastatic disease, survivors) showed some differences compared with the whole group.

[table 1]		
N=1072	Very Important	Very Important +Important
Good QL	82%	99%
Maintaining independence	75%	97%
Able to sleep	69%	97%
Able to concentrate	65%	97%
Perfrom normal activities	62%	97%
Being fatigued	61%	95%
Having depression	51%	85%
Being anxious	47%	85%
Having pain	46%	80%

Conclusions:

These results represent one of the largest surveys of concerns expressed by patients with breast cancer and support using computer-assisted technology to assess such information for rapid input of large patient samples. This study gives strong support for content validity for the BCSS and provides data on which to base separate QL instruments for specific breast cancer settings.

Saturday, December 12, 2009 5:30 PM

Poster Session 5: Social, Behavioral, Economic, and Outreach Studies: Quality of Life - Supportive Care (5:30 PM-7:30 PM)

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