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An update on the use of the Pre-treatment Patient Concerns Inventory (PCI) in a tertiary centre

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Abstract

1. Aims and background:

Patient reported outcomes (PRO) include areas of health-related-quality of life (HRQOL), but also broader concepts such as patient satisfaction with care. Reliable and valid PRO measures in head and neck cancer patients exist, but even the best instruments do not address all-important surgery-specific issues.

The aims of this work are to give an account of the use of the Pre-treatment Patient concerns inventory (Pre-treatment PCI) from a large UK tertiary center and to further validate this tool.

2. Methods:

Consecutive patients with a diagnosis of head and neck cancer and surgery as the prime treatment modality were included in this study since 2014. The day before the planned operation all patients were asked to complete the Pre-treatment PCI with the EORTC C30 with the H&N 35 module.

3. Results:

159 patients have been included with 87 males and 72 females. 113 oral cavity SCC, 46 oropharyngeal SCC and overall staging T1-T4. Two patients refused to complete the EORTC, they found the experience too stressful.

4. Conclusions:

A group of patients did not understand the treatment planned for the next day. A proportion did not know if the treatment had a curative or palliative intent.

Suggestions for future directions include: (1) to use and utilize validated instruments tailored for the clinical practice; (2) the development of a comprehensive measurement of the understanding of disease and treatment for patients necessitates the combination of both objective and subjective measures

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