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Abstract proposal for Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) Annual UK Research Conference 2019 on June 13th 2019 at Centre for Psychological Research (PsyCen), Leeds Beckett University

Title: “I would say the worst of it for me was the emotional side-effect”. Patients’ views of electronic symptom monitoring during chemotherapy.

Authors: Rosemary Peacock, Marie Holmes, Kate Absolom, Lorraine Warrington, Zoe Rogers, Andrea Gibson, Sarah Dickinson, Beverly Clayton, Galina Velikova.

Background: eRAPID is an online system for monitoring and reporting adverse-events during cancer treatment. It provides patients with severity tailored advice for managing symptoms. Patient data can be accessed by oncology staff via electronic patient records for use in consultations.

Aim: To explore patients’ views of using eRAPID during chemotherapy.

Method: During 2015-2018 a randomised controlled trial has been conducted to evaluate the impact of eRAPID on the care of patients starting treatment for breast, gynaecological and colorectal cancer. End of study interviews were conducted with a subset of participants who had used the intervention over the 18 week study period. A semi-structured schedule explored views of eRAPID and its perceived impact on supporting the treatment experience. Transcripts were analysed using thematic analysis.

Results: A total of N=21 patients were interviewed. Patients were largely positive about eRAPID and found the online reporting feasible. Three key themes emerged that described views of the value of the system throughout chemotherapy 1) informational needs 2) emotional/psychological coping and 3) social/everyday life. Although the system was deemed to be a useful practical aid for managing the physical effects of treatment, patients recognised it did not support some of the wider emotional and social aspects of cancer treatment.

Conclusion: Online symptom monitoring during cancer treatment is acceptable to patients and becoming increasingly common. The development of more holistic systems that assess and deliver management guidance for the psycho-social as well as the physical side effects of cancer may be of particular benefit.

All authors based at Patient Reported Outcomes Group, Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s, University of Leeds, Bexley Wing, St James’s Hospital, Beckett Street, Leeds, LS9 7TF, UK

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