

Using patient-reported outcome measures in the cancer setting

Patient-reported outcome measures

Patient-reported outcome measures, or PROMs, have been used to measure outcomes of anxiety, depression, general distress and health related quality of life.

There are over 50 identified PROMs, and over 174 Random Control Trials (RCTs) of psychosocial interventions conducted with English-Speaking cancer patients published since 1999.

A systematic literature review of selected PROMs was undertaken to analyse the evidence for reliability and validity in the cancer setting.

Measuring anxiety, depression and/or distress

The most commonly used PROMs for measuring anxiety, depression and/or distress were:

- Profile of Mood States (POMS; various versions);
- State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI);
- Centre for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D);
- Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS); and
- Impact of Event Scale – Revised (IES-R).

Measuring HRQoL

The most commonly used PROMs for measuring HRQoL were:

- the core measure from the Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness and Therapy (FACIT) suite, the FACT-G;
- the core measure from the European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire (EORTC QLQ) suite, the EORTC QLQ-C30;
- Medical Outcomes Survey Short Form Health Survey-36 (SF-36v2);
- Cancer Rehabilitation and Evaluation Systems Short Form (CARES-SF); and
- Rotterdam Symptom Checklist (RSCL).

Using PROMs in the cancer setting

After scoring each tool, it was found that the HADS (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale) would be most appropriate for measuring anxiety, depression and distress in cancer patients.

When measuring HRQoL, the FACT-G (Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy - General) was found to be most appropriate in the cancer setting.

Patient-reported outcome measures can be used to measure outcomes of anxiety, depression, general distress and health related quality of life (HRQoL).

- The HADS (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale) scored the highest in measuring anxiety, depression and distress.
- The FACT-G (Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy - General) scored the highest in measuring Health Related Quality of Life.

| PROM | Score/100 |
|---------|-----------|
| HADS | 72.5/100 |
| POMS-37 | 60/100 |
| CES-D | 55/100 |
| PCL-C | 37.5 |
| IES-R | 22.5 |

| PROM | Score/100 |
|---------------|-----------|
| FACT-G | 90/100 |
| EORTC-QLQ-C30 | 80/100 |
| SF-36 | 57.5/100 |
| SF-12 | 47.5/100 |
| QLI-CV | 27.5/100 |

Further Reading

- Luckett T, King MT, Butow PN, Oguchi M, Rankin N, Price MA, Hackl NA, Heading G (In Press). Choosing between the EORTC QLQ-C30 and FACT-G for measuring health-related quality of life in cancer clinical research: issues, evidence and recommendations. *Annals of Oncology*, accepted 16th Nov 2010.
- Luckett, T., Butow, P.N., King, M.T., Oguchi, M., Heading, G., Hackl, N.A., Rankin, N., & Price, M.A. (2010). A review and recommendations for optimal outcome measures of anxiety, depression and general distress in studies evaluating psychosocial interventions for English-speaking adults with heterogeneous cancer diagnoses. *Journal of Supportive Care in Cancer*, 18, 10, 1241-1262.

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