Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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Nevertheless, existing research suggests that sexual health represents an area of largely unmet need for cancer survivors, with many patients not receiving adequate assistance or information.

It is intended to evaluate our performance in the management of the psychosexual aspects derived from the diagnosis of cancer and its treatment in the Radiation Oncology Service.

This project constitutes the first step in the diagnosis phase within a comprehensive care program for the psychosexual aspects of cancer.

Materials and Methods

A total of 100 unselected patients took part in the study. Participants completed a “face to face” questionnaire. They were asked whether or not they had been informed, since the diagnosis of their disease, of the sexual consequences of cancer or its treatment by a health professional.

A univariate statistical analysis was carried out on the variables associated with a greater probability of receiving the information. Observed and expected frequencies were compared applying the Chi-Square test. In the cases where the patients had not received any information, questions were included to determine whether or not they would have prefer to have received that information.

Results

98 out of 100 participants were able to complete the survey. The median age was 66. The diagnoses most frequently reported were prostate (44%), breast (17%) and gynaecologic cancer (15%).

Only 44% of patients, less than half, were informed about sexual effects.

In our series, the probability of receiving information was not related to the age (p = 0.64) or gender (p = 0.07).

The probability of receiving the information was related to the underlying neoplasm (p <0.05); having a prostatic or gynecological neoplasm was associated with a high probability of being informed.

92% of patients claimed that the health team should proactively provide patients with information about sexual concerns.

Conclusion

The management of cancer-related sexual problems is an unmet need of our patients.

The results showed that information on sexual aspects must be taken into account to a greater extent and more proactively than we are currently doing. Our Radiation Oncology Service has initiated actions to ensure that patients have this need satisfied.

The next phase of our program is to detect the most relevant problems, reported by the patients themselves, in order to implement preventive and therapeutic strategies.

PO-1479 Distress and life satisfaction - Need of psychosocial and spiritual care in head and neck cancer

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Purpose or Objective

Radiotherapy belongs to the standard treatment in head and neck cancer. However, the special psychosocial and spiritual needs are not well defined. Therefore, we assessed, whether head and neck cancer patients under radiation treatment have an increased need for psychosocial and/or spiritual support.

Materials and Methods

A total of 133 with head and neck cancer attended a survey of the Working Group Prevention and Integrative Oncology (PRIO) of the German Cancer Society. Of these patients, 56 received a radiotherapy (RT) (Group I; median age: 64 years (range, 38-90)), 57 received no RT (Group II, median age: 62 (range, 41-86)). Both groups were comparable regarding the tumor stage (UICC I+II/III+IV/n.a. - Group 1: 21/9/26, Group II: 29/11/27) as well as from the confessional commitment (yes/no - Group I: 19/37, Group II: 23/34).

We assessed the data for the perceived distress (“distress thermometer”, NRS), for life satisfaction (WHO-5 and BMLSS-10) and the perceived support (BMLSS-Support).

Results

In Group I, the everyday life stress (NRS: 0-100) is reported with 48.8+/−21.8 a little bit higher, but not significantly different from group II with 40.9+/−26.3 (p=0.101). The psychological pressure (NRS: 0-100) is comparable with 37.5+/−25.2 in group I and 32.1+/−25.9 in group 2 (p=0.293). The data for life satisfaction (WHO-5 and BMLSS-10) indicate a considerable loss compared to reference to other oncological patients groups. There were no relevant differences between the different head and neck cancer groups (group I versus II: WHO-5: 51.00+/−23.95 vs. 52.65 +/− 24.99, BMLSS-10 61.01 +/− 15.10 vs. 61.00 +/− 22.85). Both groups report a larger effect in the spiritual-mental support of nursing/physicians compared to psychology/spiritual care (p=0.0001). However, particularly patients with radiotherapy have an as yet unmet need in spiritual care (p=0.011).

Conclusion

There is marked deficit in life satisfaction in patients with head and neck cancer compared to other chronic diseased patients. In particular, in patients with radiation treatment a psychosocial support in terms of spiritual care is necessary.

PO-1480 Implementation of a self-administered patient health history questionnaire in a radiation oncology department during COVID-19

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Purpose or Objective
Health history questionnaires have been shown to be an accurate and reliable means of collecting clinical information. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we implemented a self-administered health history questionnaire in our radiation oncology department to improve the efficiency of new patient consultations.

Materials and Methods
A health history questionnaire was developed and posted to patients prior to their initial new patient clinic appointment. They were requested to fill it in and bring it with them to their appointment. Sections included demographic details, past medical and surgical history, medications, allergies, family and social history, previous radiotherapy, chemotherapy details and performance status. We conducted a paper survey of the first 44 patients to enquire about their experience.

Results
All 44 patients participated in the study and completed the questionnaire prior to attending clinic. Median time to complete the questionnaire was 5-15 minutes. The majority of patients (75%; 33/44) found the questionnaire “easy” or “very easy” to complete. The questionnaire received positive feedback with 66% (29/44) of patients finding it “helpful” or “very helpful”. Suggestions for improvement included the establishment of a common patient record between General Practice and the hospital system. Comments included that the questionnaire allowed patients time to check background details they were unsure about prior to attending their appointment.

Conclusion
Both patients and healthcare providers found the health history questionnaire to be a helpful, easy to use tool. We plan to continue its use in our department to streamline the new patient clinic assessment.

PO-1481 The “PC-WIRED” study: Patient Centred Evolution of Websites of Italian Radiotherapy Departments
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Purpose or Objective
The aim of this paper was to conduct a survey about the evolution of the information provided by Italian radiotherapy departments with a special focus on patients’ perspective.

Materials and Methods
A two-steps analysis was conducted in 2013 and 2020. Starting from analysis of data for the existing websites of Italian radiotherapy departments, main potential areas of interest for patients were discussed within a dedicated multidisciplinary team composed of radiation oncologists, a web designer, a blogger, a psychologist, a volunteer and a representative of patients’ association.

Results

| Patient oriented features                                      | 2013 | 2020 | Δ     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Patient centered description of RT workflow and possible side effects | 26%  | 33%  | +7%   |
| Educational videos or animations for patient                   | 9%   | 13%  | +4%   |
| Feedback section                                               | 1%   | 3%   | +2%   |
| Presence of previous patients experiences with the center      | <1%  | <1%  | 0     |
| Photos of radiation oncologists                                | 15%  | 15%  | 0     |
| Photos of RTTs and/or nurses                                   | 6%   | 6%   | 0     |

Six patient-oriented features to evaluate the websites of Italian radiotherapy departments were identified and several other features not specifically patient-oriented were also reported in our survey.

Conclusion
A major effort is still needed to develop websites intended to be used by patients which should be both user-friendly and easily accessible. Social media are rapidly gaining a growing importance. Practice implications: A pivotal role could be played by patients’ organization who should be empowered by connecting all the stakeholders involved in this field.