Health-Related Quality of Life in Meningioma

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Author contributions:

Manuscript composition: SH, MJBT, KJD, TW
Data Collection: SH, TW
Interpretation of Data: SH, MJBT, KJD, TW
Study Oversight: SH, MJBT, KJD, TW

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Email: Twalber1@hfhs.org
Funding: There was no funding for this study.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors report no conflicts of interest

Unpublished manuscripts: There are no unpublished manuscripts related to this paper.
Abstract

Meningiomas are the most common primary intracranial tumor in adults. Although frequently histologically benign, the clinical severity of a lesion may range from being asymptomatic to causing severe impairment of global function and well-being. The diversity of intracranial locations and clinical phenotypes poses a challenge when studying functional impairments, however, more recent attention to patient-reported outcomes and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) have helped to improve our understanding of how meningioma may impact a patient’s life. Treatment strategies such as observation, surgery, radiation, or a combination thereof have been examined to ascertain their contributions to symptoms, physical and cognitive functioning, disability, and general aspects of daily functioning. This review explores the multidimensional nature of HRQOL and how patients may be influenced by meningiomas and their treatment. Overall, treatment of symptomatic meningiomas is associated with improved HRQOL, cognitive functioning, and seizure control while tumor size, location, histologic grade, and epileptic burden are associated with worse HRQOL.

Keywords: quality of life, health-related quality of life, meningioma, patient-reported outcome measures, epilepsy, socioeconomics, radiotherapy
Introduction

Meningiomas are among the most common primary intracranial tumors, accounting for nearly one third of all central nervous system tumors \(^1\)\(^-\)\(^5\). Incidence in the general population is 2.3 to 5.5 cases per 100,000 people, the range inclusive of incidental and autopsy findings \(^6\)\(^,\)\(^7\). While the majority of meningiomas are histologically benign, they nonetheless may contribute to neurologic dysfunction by means of regional mass effect, inducing epileptogenicity or might affect patients’ lives by treatment-related sequelae. Meningiomas are frequently asymptomatic and may be found incidentally during diagnostic workups for alternative indications. Incidental meningiomas without mass effect that are asymptomatic either do not affect quality of life or are inherently challenging to study given that this subgroup evades detection of the underlying lesion.

Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) is a multifactorial concept capturing commonly valued aspects of life and how they contribute to one’s overall health functioning and sense of well-being. A patient’s level of functioning is influenced by symptoms, physical and cognitive impairments, as well as the downstream activity limitations secondary to neurologic dysfunction. The World Health Organization further classifies determinants of patient functioning as those that affect daily functioning, disability, or health \(^8\). The main objective of this review is to characterize HRQOL in meningioma patients as well as how it may be influenced by the disease and its treatments. The overarching categories of HRQOL of meningioma patients covered in this review include physical functioning, cognitive functioning, disability, treatment, and general aspects of daily functioning.

Health-Related Quality of Life

The natural history of diseases and their treatments have historically been examined by clinical endpoints and objective biomarkers of disease. Over recent decades the concept of HRQOL has emerged as a significant area of interest with a focus on how disease states impact a patient’s functioning \(^9\)\(^,\)\(^10\). HRQOL is not merely the perception of how fulfilling one perceives their existence, but is best regarded as a multidimensional framework that incorporates one’s physical,
psychological, and social functioning as it relates to their disease-specific signs, symptoms, treatment, and sequelae. Given the conceptual complexity of HRQOL, specific and validated tools are required.

HRQOL instruments may be used from both a research perspective and clinical practice. From a research standpoint, these instruments provide patient-perspective insights that can be tied to objective survival rates to ascertain the net utility of a therapeutic modality. In a clinical setting, these questionnaires may enable a provider to track a patient’s disease course, identify problem areas, and facilitate communication regarding symptoms and their impact on daily living. The implementation of patient-reported outcome measures in cancer care may simultaneously guide subsequent treatment decisions as well as provide insights for departmental quality improvement initiatives.

While symptoms can be ascertained from a healthcare provider, caregiver, or patient, quality of life data is directly reported from the patient themselves via questionnaires. Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) are increasingly valued and are felt to reflect the patient’s perspective most truthfully. Researchers have identified disparities between provider- and patient-reported outcomes; thus it is generally accepted that a communicative patient is the best source of information on their own HRQOL.

The most widely utilized questionnaires used to assess HRQOL and symptoms include generic instruments (SF-36, EQ-5D, MDASI), cancer-specific instruments (FACT-G, EORTC QLQ-C30), disease-specific instruments tailored to the brain tumor population (FACT-BR, EORTC QLQ-BN20, MDASI-BT) or instruments that can be adjusted as needed (National Institute of Health Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System – [PROMIS]). The more broadly designed questionnaires have been designed for diverse target populations to measure physical, cognitive, emotional, and social functioning, though not uniquely for central nervous system pathology. As a result, there may be meningioma-specific issues that remain unexplored or unaddressed from these instruments. Others have also employed cancer-specific instruments to assess HRQOL in
meningioma; though these instruments have been historically developed and validated for solid tumor malignancies outside the central nervous system\textsuperscript{14,15}. Both the cancer- and brain tumor-specific questionnaires have not been validated for the full spectrum of issues relevant to the meningioma population; though the SF-36 has been validated for brain tumor patients, 40\% of whom were meningioma patients\textsuperscript{16}. With the aforementioned limitations in mind, these instruments still afford structured insight into HRQOL for this subset of brain tumor patients (Table 1\textsuperscript{17-23}).

**Quality of life of Meningioma patients compared with healthy controls**

Up to one third of meningiomas are discovered incidentally, and the majority of these patients are asymptomatic at presentation\textsuperscript{24,25}. An increased use of diagnostic imaging has paralleled the increased incidence of meningioma while autopsy studies report a prevalence as high as 2\%\textsuperscript{26,27}. While a subset of meningiomas remain asymptomatic for the duration of follow-up (or absence of discovery), patients with symptomatic lesions report lower health status and functioning compared to normative healthy controls. These impairments can be subtle. One study following patients with suspected meningiomas, reported a decrease in general health and vitality but there were no statistically significant differences within the SF-36 domains of physical functioning, role limitation, bodily pain, social functioning, emotional problems, or mental health\textsuperscript{2}. The authors attribute these changes to the simple awareness of an intracranial tumor and the impact it can have on patients by lowering the HRQOL scores in the vitality and general health domains, as this was not explained by neurocognitive test performance comparable to healthy controls\textsuperscript{2}. These findings suggest the notion that patients with meningiomas, while not having significant physical detriments referable to their lesions, still may endure psychological distress. Others have similarly reported significant preoperative anxiety and depression scores that generally decrease post resection\textsuperscript{28}.

When clinically symptomatic, meningioma patients reported lower scores for physical health, vitality, self-care, cognition, psychomotor speed, verbal memory, working memory, and role-
limitations compared to age-matched healthy controls \(^2,29,30\). While scores were lower in 7 out of 8 domains of the SF-36, they might have not been clinically relevant and they were still relatively comparable to healthy controls with the exception of “role limitations caused by physical problems,” which was significantly lower in meningioma patients \(^30\).

**HRQOL and Physical Functioning**

Symptomatic meningiomas present with a wide range of clinical severity and symptoms depending on the specific intracranial location. The most common anatomic sites of meningioma include: convexity (35%), parasagittal (20%), sphenoid ridge (20%), infratentorial (13%), intraventricular (5%), tuberculum sellae (3%), and others (4%) \(^1\). These locations serve as important subgroups as they represent distinct pathologic phenotypes of physical symptoms. For example, a meningioma of the tuberculum may affect vision at a relatively small size while an infratentorial meningioma of similar volume can cause myelopathy at the craniocervical junction or hearing loss at the cerebellopontine angle.

Meningiomas of the skull base carry an intrinsically higher risk of surgical morbidity given the narrow working corridors, proximity to critical neurovascular structures, and the relative fragility of lower cranial nerves with respect to tolerating surgical manipulation \(^31,32\). Karsy et al. utilized the EQ-5D tool to follow 52 patients with skull-base meningiomas from presentation to long-term follow-up; outcomes were categorically classified as improved, worsened, or unchanged. Patients that improved by 1-month postoperatively continued to improve at 1-year follow-up, however, those with unchanged or worsened scores did not improve, implying fixed deficits conferred a persistent decrement in HRQOL scores \(^33\). Preoperative symptoms in this cohort included vision changes, cranial nerve deficit, ambulation difficulties, tinnitus, and cognitive decline. Of note, visual symptoms had the strongest impact on lowering HRQOL with optic nerve decompression and lack of proptosis correlating to improved scores \(^33\). This relationship highlights the importance of vision preservation as a goal of management for meningiomas near the optic apparatus.
HRQOL and Cognitive Functioning

Neurocognitive function is a major component of QOL. Changes to cognitive function can be related to the tumor itself or treatment. Unfortunately, not much is known about the neurocognitive implications on QOL prior to surgery. Several studies have examined untreated, radiographically suspected meningioma patients with standardized neurocognitive testing and patient-reported outcome scales. These studies uniformly detected deficits in working memory, fluency, attention, processing speed, longer reaction times, and increased error rates when compared to healthy controls. All studies were restricted to supratentorial meningiomas and there were no significant associations with tumor volume or lesion laterality.

While it remains difficult to establish when meningioma patients have preoperative cognitive dysfunction, there is a greater compendium of work investigating cognitive impairments in those with meningiomas warranting treatment. In the largest prospective, cross-sectional cohort study of HRQOL by Nassiri et al., 291 meningioma patients were assessed using the validated EORTC QLQ-C30 questionnaire in annual intervals up to 120 months and beyond. In comparison to a normative population, meningioma patients exhibited reduced global HRQOL scores at nearly every 12-month interval. While there was a demonstrable reduction in each subdomain of HRQOL (physical, role, emotional, cognitive, social, fatigue, sleep), a clinically meaningful difference was particularly appreciated in the cognitive domain. The limitations in cognitive, emotional, and social functioning persisted for more than 120 months after initial treatment. Of note, this study examined perceived cognitive impairment and did not objectively measure this domain.

Despite the persistence of neurocognitive impairments well after treatment, most meningioma patients experience improved HRQOL after surgery. Sixty-eight meningioma patients evaluated with a battery of neuropsychological tests right after surgery demonstrated lower scores across all cognitive domains; memory, psychomotor speed, reaction time, complex attention, cognitive flexibility, processing speed, and executive functioning. When reexamined 3 months later with the same battery of tests, the scores revealed improvements across all domains with the
exception of psychomotor speed and reaction time. In similar studies linking patient-reported outcomes to objective neuropsychological testing, most patients with WHO Grade 1 meningiomas had similar HRQOL compared to that of healthy controls in 7 out of 8 domains of the SF-36, however, those with impaired cognitive functioning reported significantly lower HRQOL scores as well.

HRQOL and Patient Perspective

With the subjective nature of HRQOL assessments, personality-related determinants may also paint the perceived experience of living with and undergoing treatment for a brain tumor. When personality tests and psychological distress scales were linked to the SF-36 assessment tool, researchers found that emotional stability was independently associated with SF-36 emotional well-being and general health scores. Additionally, anxiety and depression scores among meningioma patients were the strongest determinants of 7 out of 8 SF-36 domains (with the exception of physical functioning). In the realm of resilience research, the theory of hedonic adaptation refers to the tendency of humans to vacillate around a “set point” of happiness over time, despite positive and negative life events. Given that degree of oscillation or change around this “set point” of happiness is dependent on the individual’s ability to adapt, it is thought that higher scores for emotional stability and consciousness are linked to better HRQOL while cognitive impairment and functional disability reduced HRQOL. The biopsychosocial perspective on brain tumor survival and adjustment/coping remains an important avenue for continued research.

QOL and Epilepsy in Meningioma

Epilepsy has been reliably shown to have a negative impact on QOL in meningioma patients. Seizures represent a common presenting symptom for meningiomas and 10-50% of individuals with supratentorial meningiomas present with concurrent localization-related epilepsy. Up to one quarter of patients may present with seizure as their initial symptom.
Researchers from the National Health Service Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom further investigated the impact of epilepsy in surgically treated meningiomas using the SF-36 and Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy subscale for brain cancer (FACT-BR, Table 1) and a cohort of epilepsy patients without brain tumors. After matching for age, sex, and duration of epilepsy, patients with meningioma and comorbid epilepsy had consistently lower HRQOL scores as evidenced by statistically significant declines in FACT-BR scores. A hierarchical regression analysis of participant and demographic variables further indicated that antiepileptic drug (AED) use consistently predicted lower SF-36 and FACT-BR scores. Waagemans et al. similarly found that postoperative meningioma patients on AEDs had significant impairment on 5 out of 8 domains of the SF-36. Further subgroup analysis of the meningioma patients on AEDs, showed no difference in HRQOL measures when stratified by those with ongoing seizures versus those with complete seizure freedom. This supports the conclusion that AED use negatively impacts HRQOL independent of seizure frequency—this notion is supported in the general neurology literature as well.

The negative impact of comorbid seizures, as well as AED use, on patient-reported outcome measures persists when analyzed with standardized neuropsychological tests. A study of 89 postsurgical meningioma patients focusing on epilepsy burden (defined by seizure frequency and AED regimen) found that higher epilepsy burden and AED use was significantly related to lower executive functioning.

For meningioma patients with preoperative seizures, surgical resection is often effective in improving seizure control and reducing AED use. In a single center series of supratentorial meningiomas with preoperative seizures, 187 patients were followed longitudinally demonstrating approximately 90% seizure freedom by one year postoperatively. Independent predictors of poor seizure control included the presence of peritumoral edema greater than 1cm, higher WHO grade, incomplete extent of resection (Simpson III-IV), and tumor progression during surveillance. In a systematic review on postoperative seizure outcomes in meningioma patients with preoperative epilepsy, postoperative seizure freedom ranged from 38-90% of resected meningiomas.
Epilepsy with an earlier age of onset and antiepileptic drug use have both been related to cognitive impairment and lower quality of life in patients with seizures. Regardless of seizure etiology, treatment with antiepileptics and polypharmacotherapy are strong negative predictors of cognitive performance in the domains of processing speed, verbal comprehension, and visuospatial abilities. The decision to discontinue antiepileptic drugs is a complex one shared between clinicians and patients and depends on factors such as disease severity, medication side effects, and risk tolerance for a breakthrough seizure. In a single center series of 169 brain tumor patients, post-withdrawal seizure rates were similar between meningioma and primary brain tumor patients among those in whom AEDs were discontinued. Factors favoring AED continuation included the presence of preoperative seizures, temporal tumor location, recurrent disease, and subtotal resection. There were no independent risk factors identified among those with seizures after discontinuing AEDs. Patient preferences, medication side effects, and risk tolerance for a breakthrough seizure all play a part in the complex discussion between provider and patient when weaning antiepileptics. For example, some locales prohibit driving an automobile for a duration of time after a breakthrough-seizure, which can have profound implications on employment status and independence.

**QOL after Meningioma Treatment**

Treatment for meningioma can often preserve or even improve function and HRQOL. Most patients are treated with surgical resection and/or radiation therapy. The degree of HRQOL improvement generally varies according to pre-treatment symptom burden. For instance, symptomatic skull-base meningiomas are associated with greater deficit at presentation, lower gross-total resection rates, and shorter retreatment-free intervals than their non-skull base counterparts. Studies have shown that the degree of symptom severity before treatment has implications for the quality of life experienced after treatment. Meningioma features that have been tied to a greater degree of symptom burden include tumor volume >25cc, frontal lesions,
recurrent lesions, subtotal resections, and skull base lesions where gross-total resection is commonly not feasible. Overall, surgical resection is tied to improvements in HRQOL in those with symptomatic meningiomas, with half of patients reporting benefit. One prospective study found that the improvements in HRQOL after surgery were largely attributable to improvements in the EQ-5D domains of usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression. Perhaps the strongest evidence for clinical predictors of HRQOL comes from Maio et al., who examined 147 meningioma patients with a 25-item questionnaire tailored to the brain tumor population. The HRQOL assessment tool was administered pre- and postoperatively to meningioma patients as well as age-matched healthy controls. HRQOL scores of meningioma patients improved with treatment, however still lagged behind the baseline HRQOL scores of normal controls. Univariate analysis of clinical factors showed histologic grade (RR=3.83), recurrent tumor (RR=1.33), tumor size (RR=1.13), and location (RR=1.09) to be significant predictors of HRQOL scores.

A cross-sectional multicenter study examining determinants of HRQOL, showed that patient-specific demographic characteristics, surgical complications, recurrent disease, radiotherapy, and presence of edema were significant predictors of the patients’ HRQOL. A complex treatment course involving radiotherapy and reoperations to control the disease portends a higher risk of decreased HRQOL. The presence of edema and large tumor diameter has also been correlated to higher histological grade with decreased executive and physical functioning. The largest longitudinal cohort study of HRQOL in meningioma found that patients continue to report limitations in HRQOL for more than 120 months after surgery—most notably in the domains of cognitive, emotional, executive, and social functioning. It is worth noting that the majority of the HRQOL literature represents findings from grade 1 and 2 meningiomas. Survival in this patient group is routinely greater than 10 years and therefore it should be considered as a chronic disease. When comparing these patients with long term glioma survivors, meningioma...
patients tend to report better HRQOL. When compared to healthy controls, however, meningioma patients consistently demonstrate worse HRQOL in both the short and long term. Features such as edema, brain invasion, and tumor size affect meningioma patients in a way analogous to that of intramedullary brain tumors. Patients with minimal brain compression or those with tumor growth near non-eloquent cortices are more likely to be minimally symptomatic or asymptomatic.

**QOL After Radiotherapy**

While surgical resection has long been foundational to the treatment of meningioma, radiation therapy provides a formidable adjunct or primary treatment with excellent local control. A subgroup of meningioma patients, unresectable lesions or surgically high-risk patients, are appropriate candidates for treatment with radiotherapy; a treatment option with a comparatively lower risk-profile than surgery and high rates of local tumor control. Nonetheless, treatment-related toxicity includes neurological deficits related to reactive edema in the short term and neurocognitive sequelae as a delayed effect. In a one-armed, prospective nonrandomized study on the quality of life after stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS), investigators followed 67 patients with symptomatic or progressive meningiomas. Patients underwent weekly follow-up during treatment followed by SF-36 assessments at 6, 12, 18, and 24-months. Radiated patients experienced clinically meaningful declines across all 8 domains of the SF-36 tool immediately after treatment (25-50%), however these domains were subsequently normalized near baseline values by the 12-month follow-up. Local control was excellent at 98% with a singular event of disease progression at 18 months observed in a patient with WHO III meningioma. It is important to note that radiotherapy does not address neurologic symptoms due to extrinsic compression. Fifty-two of the 67 patients experienced some degree of low-grade treatment-related toxicity-- nine showed improvements in their initial complaints while 43 remained stable regarding deficits/symptoms. Debilitating treatment-related symptoms are generally attributable to transient cerebral edema and occur in 2.5% of patients undergoing SRT (Common Toxicity Criteria Grade 3 or 4). Fatigue is the most
common ongoing grievance among patients undergoing treatment; this global symptom may negatively contribute to every subdomain of HRQOL.

The most commonly encountered low-grade treatment toxicities include local alopecia and radiodermatitis, though half of patients remain completely asymptomatic. Clinically moderate symptoms such as headache and ataxia may be addressed with a short course of corticosteroids, while severe acute toxicity requiring urgent intervention is rare (<1%). When urgent surgical intervention is warranted, it is often related to mass effect from edema. Therefore, patient selection for radiotherapy candidates considers the volume and location of the lesion as well as appraisal of the patient’s ability to tolerate local mass effect. In a systematic review of radiosurgical toxicity, grade 3 toxicity or greater (Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events) was 3.4 +/- 2.9% with the majority of toxicities occurring before nine months. While stereotactic radiosurgery and fractionated radiation therapy both exhibit good local control rates for meningioma, fractionated radiotherapy is associated with a lower risk of treatment-related edema.

A common pattern within the radiotherapy literature supports that HRQOL decreases initially after treatment, followed by a period of normalization or improvement from baseline on long-term follow-up. A prospective, longitudinal analysis of HRQOL of meningioma patients demonstrated radiographic treatment response rates >68%, stable cognitive function at 1 year, and decreased QLQ-BN20 scores attributable to future uncertainty and headaches. Henzel et al. reported an identical pattern in a similar prospective series of meningioma patients. An initial decrease of functional outcomes with SRS was followed by a period of normalization at 12 months when headache frequency and severity scores decreased.

While not commonly used after gross total resection of grade 1 meningioma, adjuvant radiation is often added to the surgical management of grade II and III meningioma or in the instance of recurrent disease. Up front primary radiosurgery for radiographically suspected meningiomas demonstrates excellent local control rates, however, the literature is scarce when it comes to comparing HRQOL among the different treatment populations of surgery, surgery followed
by RT, and RT alone for meningioma. Despite short-term impairments in verbal memory, working memory and executive functioning, long-term stabilization or improvements in HRQOL have been noted after skull base meningioma resection\textsuperscript{65} and radiosurgery for brain metastasis\textsuperscript{66}.

Few studies have examined the differential effect of adjuvant radiotherapy over primary stereotactic radiosurgery with respect to HRQOL. In a historical cohort study comparing patients with WHO I meningioma undergoing adjuvant radiotherapy after resection with patients having had surgery alone, those undergoing surgery plus radiation had lower health related quality of life scores than those treated with surgery alone. Those undergoing surgery plus radiotherapy had decreased HRQOL scores particularly in the domains of physical performance, memory, processing speed, and psychomotor speed. When matched for demographics and disease duration, however, these differences disappeared suggesting radiotherapy after surgery does not have additional prolonged negative effects on HRQOL\textsuperscript{67}. The dearth of information available highlights the importance of future study of long-term HRQOL changes related to various meningioma treatments.

**Socioeconomic impact of Meningioma**

Meningioma patients afflicted during their working years may endure declines in quality of life related to loss of employment or concerns over financial security. A cross-sectional survey of 249 WHO grade 1 meningioma patients evaluating socioeconomic parameters and HRQOL, revealed that a significant fraction experienced a decrease in employment after surgical resection. Despite improvements in the HRQOL domains of global health (21%, 95% CI 15–26%), headaches (19%, CI 13–24%) and seizures (12%, CI 8–17%), one-fifth of patients became unemployed, 22% transitioned from full- to part-time, and an additional 10% of respondents became dependent on professional care for activities of daily living. Those in a higher income bracket did not experience a large shift in monthly income, but 7% of respondents in the lower income bracket shifted into the lowest income segment\textsuperscript{69}. It is important to note this study took place in Switzerland, a country with relatively generous social safeguards and a universal, comprehensive healthcare system for all citizens\textsuperscript{70}.
While the external validity of this work is limited, the authors hypothesize that both the strength and magnitude of associations between HRQOL and socioeconomic status would be magnified in countries without the same social and healthcare standards. Binary regression analysis of this cohort revealed that occupational status (OR 0.41, 95% CI 0.17-0.98, \( P=0.045 \)) and subjective ability to work (OR 0.37, 95% CI 0.15-0.92) were associated with a clinically meaningful decline in quality of life \(^{69}\). Other studies have also reported that 19-35% of post-treatment meningioma patients are unable to return to their prior level of work \(^{71}\).

**Conclusion**

Meningiomas are the most commonly diagnosed primary brain tumors in adults. Even though most are histologically benign, meningiomas and their treatment are associated with notable neurologic symptoms and oftentimes functional impairment. Patients with meningiomas, even those who are minimally symptomatic, report significantly impaired HRQOL compared to healthy controls. The domains affected include a range of concerns pertaining to physical functioning, neurocognitive and psychosocial functioning, as well as role limitations attributed to the tumor and its treatment. Known risk factors for worse HRQOL include tumor size, location, histologic grade, seizure burden, and recurrent tumor. Patients typically experience some degree of improvement after treatment, though HRQOL scores may remain depressed indefinitely \(^{4}\). Treatment often results in increased seizure control and decreased use of antiseizure medications. This is important as the side effects of these medications are known to affect HRQOL. Radiotherapy may be accompanied by transient symptoms related to cerebral edema, but mostly appear to resolve in the long term. Recognizing at-risk patients, i.e., those with histologically high-grade lesions \(^{29}\), frontal location \(^{28,35}\), skull base location \(^{33,50}\), and size greater than 25cc \(^{72}\), may aid in counseling patients and outlining expectations, as well as identifying those that may benefit from targeted supportive therapy.
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Table 1: Health-related Quality of Life Assessment Tools

| Instrument Specificity | Instrument(s) | Disease states evaluated | What is measured | Subdomains |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Generic                | EQ-5D 17      | Widely applicable, common among population health studies, clinical studies, and economic evaluation | Descriptive assessment of 5 subdomains coupled with evaluation of overall health status using the visual analog scale (VAS) | Mobility, self care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, anxiety/depression |
|                        | SF-36 16      | Evaluating health status, commonly used among health economic analyses and calculating cost-effectiveness 18 | 36-items, patient reported | Physical functioning, role limitations, pain, general health perception, vitality, social functioning, general mental health |
|                        | PROMIS 19     | Widely applicable across a chronic and acute disease states | Patient-reported physical, mental, social functioning assessment | Fatigue, pain intensity, pain interference, physical function, sleep disturbance, anxiety, depression, role limitation |
| Cancer                 | EORTC QLQ-C30 13,20 | Lung, breast, gynecologic, prostate, colorectal cancer. May be used in a variety of cancers and also brain tumors | 30 cancer-related items Patient reported | Physical, role, cognitive, emotional, social functioning, fatigue, nausea, emesis, pain |
| Brain Tumor            | EORTC QLQ-BN20 21 | Those undergoing treatment for glioma | 20-item supplement to EORTC QLQ-C30 | Future uncertainty, visual disorder, motor dysfunction, communication deficit, headache, seizure, drowsiness, hair loss, itchy skin, weakness of legs, bladder control |
|                        | FACT-Br 22    | 44-items                  | Physical, emotional, |           |
| Survey          | Items/Features                                                                 | Patient reported | Functional well-being, additional symptoms/concerns |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| MDASI-BT        | 22 symptom items, Patient reported                                           |                  | General, focal, and treatment-related symptoms over past 24hrs |
| BN20            | 10 items, patient reported                                                   |                  | Future uncertainty, visual, motor, communication, emotional distress, signs/symptoms (Brain tumor specific) |

Adapted from [14] and [13]. Abbreviations: BCM-20 (Brain Cancer Module 2.0), EORTC QLQ-C30 (European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire Version 3), EORTC QLQ-BN20 (Quality of Life Questionnaire Brain Neoplasm Module 2.0), EQ-5D (EuroQol 5 Dimension), FACT-Br (Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy Brain Module), PROMIS (National Institute of Health Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System), MDASI-BT (M.D. Anderson Symptom Inventory – Brain Tumor), SF-36 (Short Form Health Survey – 36 item).