

The future of quality of life in clinical trials

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The future of QL in clinical trials

- What is the added value of QL?
- What is the future?

Influence on treatment decisions

Clinical setting of trial N = 66	Significant medical outcome			Added QL value	
	Unknown	Yes	No	Yes	No
Primary management n=8	4	2	2	5	3
Adjuvant therapy n=7	-	4	3	-	7
Metastatic treatment n=20	-	13	7	2?	18
Symptoms n=11	-	8	3	-	11
Psychosocial n=20	13	1	6	19	1

Goodwin *JNCI* 2003

Taking stock in clinical trials

- Overall QL has little to contribute
- QL added value is context dependant
- (medical outcomes have superiority)
- Need to be cautious in future

Taking stock in clinical trials

- Small number of heterogeneous trials
- Mostly used generic cancer tools
- Not powered to detect QL differences
- Not possible to translate to other sites

QL in future trials

- Wait for data to mature
- Look at other disease sites
- Look at other treatments

QL in future trials

- Refine QL research question
- Appropriate measure
- Accurate assessment points
- Minimize missing data
- Methods to communicate results

Conclusions

- Expertise
- Collaboration
- Invest in clinically relevant QL studies