



Whither Goeth HRQOL
Measurement; The Tail Still
Waggeth

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EORTC QLSG

EORTC sometimes is referred to as the
EROT_C - is it really?

Twenty five years!!! Wow!!!

Twenty five years ago, on Oct 10th,
1981...



But, back to the topic... “Whither Goeth
HRQOL Measurement; The Tail Still
Waggeth”

What Does He Mean...?

- “Whither...”. Does he mean Whether???
- “... Goeth”. Is this a misspelling of Goethe or Goth or Gothic???
- “... HRQOL”. Is this supposed to be Her Royal Quandary Over Laundry???
- ... :“The Tail...”. Is he thinking of “and thereby hangs a tale”???. Or trail???
- “...Waggeth.” Is this meant to be Wagon???
- Could be “Whether Goths Measured the Royal Quandary Over Laundry: Their Wagon Trail”

Sources ... The Tail Still Waggeth

“... and thereby hangs a tale.”

Jacques: “And so from hour to hour, we
ripe and ripe, and then from hour to hour
we rot and rot, and thereby hangs a tale.

- from As you Like It --- William Shakespeare

What in the world is
that Osoba guy
up to ???!!!!

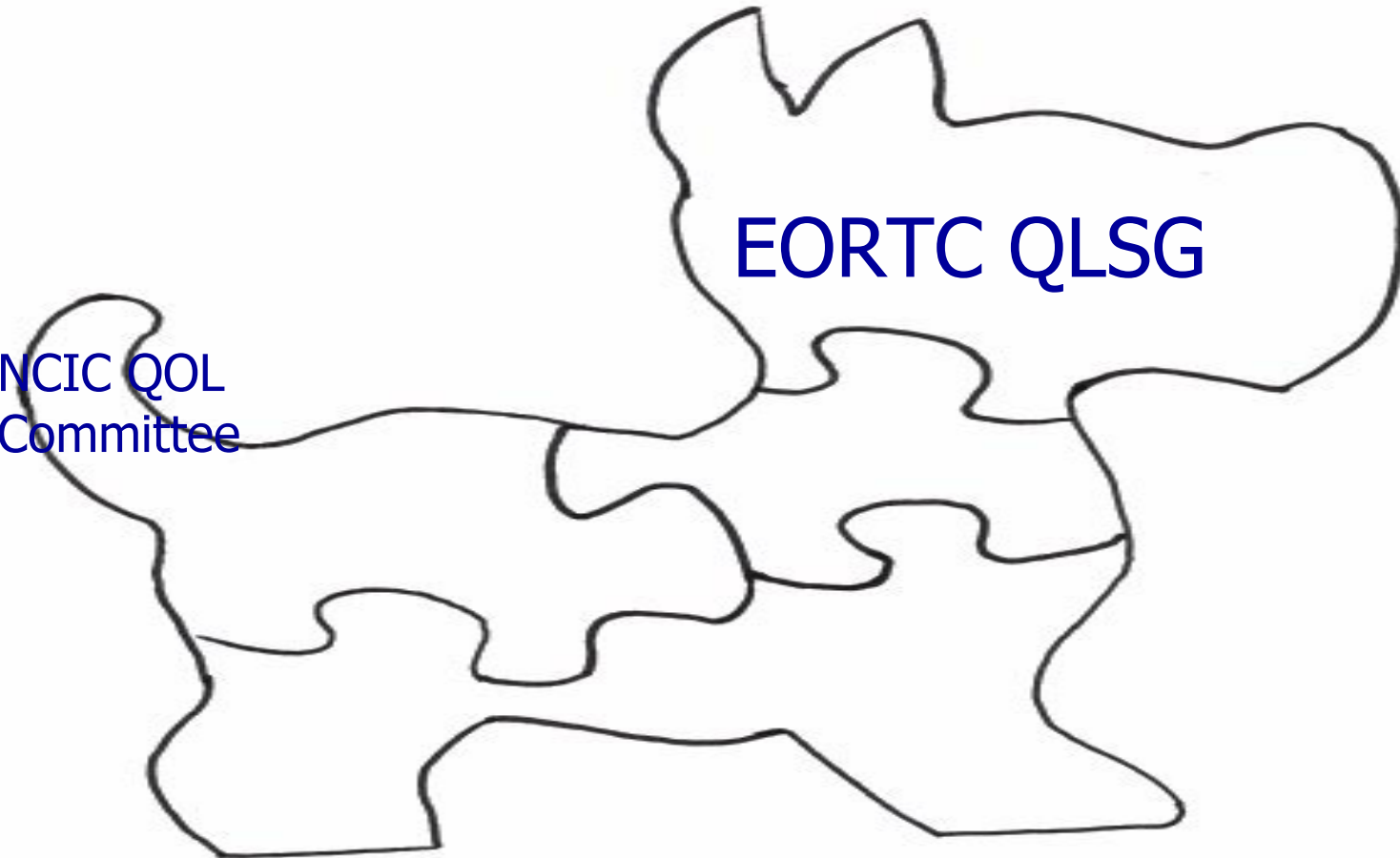


So, let's get serious...

Position of the NCIC CTG QOL
Committee vis-a-vis the EORTC QLSG

NCIC QOL
Committee

EORTC QLSG



The NCIC Clinical Trials Group QOL Committee

- Formed as a working group in 1986; full Committee in 1987 – 20th anniversary
- Adopted QLQ-C30 as main instrument in initiation of clinical trials with HRQOL component
- Appointed a liaison person to QLSG – “c’est moi!” – attended Paris, April 9-10, 1987 (celebrated birthday!)
- Learned a great deal from the QLSG



The CTG QOL Committee “Tale”

- Developed a clear policy about collecting HRQOL data in clinical trials
- Developed writing guidelines for protocols
- Required baseline HRQOL completion at patient registration before randomization
- Instructed CRAs and investigators on need to collect data without missing information
- Created liaison with disease site groups

The CTG QOL Committee "Tale"

- Since 1987 - 71 trials (58 of which are now closed) with HRQOL component
- QLQ-C30 used in 51/71 (72%) of trials
- Since 1992 - 45 full articles, 69 abstracts and 6 miscellaneous publications
- Questionnaire completion rates at baseline
 - >97%; on-study - >80%, usually

The CTG QOL Committee “Tale”

- Carried out further validation of v.1 of the C30 in breast, ovarian and lung cancer
- Assisted in validating v.2 and v.3 of C30
- Developed study-specific checklists
- Developed and tested the Subjective Significance Questionnaire
- Developed a simple analysis approach

The CTG QOL Committee – Selected Results

- Effects of postchemotherapy N&V on HRQOL - led to change in guidelines
- One of the determinants of postchemotherapy N&V is QOL itself
- Patients adhere to time frames of items
- Postchemotherapy fatigue not all due to N&V

The CTG QOL Committee – Selected Results

- Low global QOL domain scores at baseline are prognostic for shorter survival
- In advanced ovarian cancer, cyclophosphamide and cisplatin had less deleterious impact on HRQOL during treatment than did paclitaxil and cisplatin.

The CTG QOL Committee – Selected Results

- Gemcitabine plus vinorelbine produced fewer problems with appetite, vomiting, alopecia and ototoxicity than did cisplatin-based chemotherapy, but lung cancer symptoms were not as well controlled in Stage II and IV non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

The CTG QOL Committee – Selected Results

- Erlotinib versus placebo for stage IV NSCLC revealed a clinically and statistically significantly longer median time to deterioration of pre-defined index symptoms for patients on the Erlotinib arm (e.g., 4.7 vs 2.9 months for dyspnea) as well as improvements in global QOL and physical function

The CTG QOL Committee – Selected Results

- Patients report more symptoms than are reported on case report forms or by toxicity grading
- SSQ studies – perceptible change on C30 scores is about 7-8 points of 0-100 scale
- Suggested that 10% of scale breadth is a reasonable cut-off for classifying patients as having, or not having, improved

Whither Goeth HRQOL Measurement?

- Predicting the future is hazardous, but -
- Expect more attention to measurement of Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) in more phase III as well as phase II trials
- Expect better quality implementation and reporting of results
- Further definition and delineation of clinically meaningful results

Whither Goeth HRQOL Measurement?

- Simpler statistical methods
- Further exploration of IRT approaches to computer adaptive testing
- More attention to PRO in clinical practice

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, deep blue ocean under a blue sky with wispy clouds. The horizon is visible in the distance, and the water's surface shows gentle ripples. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue.

So after all this time, what do I know?



I'm still learning! But, now it's time for a nap...