

Elderly module

PHASE 1 DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE MODULE THE QLQ-ELD TO SUPPLEMENT THE EORTC QLQ-C30 IN OLDER PEOPLE (AGED OVER 70 YEARS) WITH CANCER.

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Phase I Identification of issues

Interviews older patients with cancer to identify issues that affect their QoL. Interviews number 20+ to date and will be extended and include people under 70 as a comparative group.

Phase II Generation of provisional age-specific quality of life instrument

The issues identified in phase I will be formulated into a QoL questionnaire. The QLQ -ELD is intended to cover additional QoL dimensions that are relevant across diagnoses and treatment modalities.

Phase III Field-testing with debriefing interviews

Phase 1 - Patient selection and recruitment

- Breast, lung, colon, prostate and ovarian cancer and Lymphoma
- Exclusions: any previous malignancy, prognosis < 3 months, unable to give written informed consent, significant cognitive impairment (abbreviated mental test score < 8)

- Patients aged >70, control group aged 50-69
- Aim to recruit patients across disease spectrum and at different stages in treatment pathways
- Match disease-stage and treatment in these 2 age groups
- Residential status - match (if possible) whether living alone, cohabiting or in residential care

Interview agenda

- EORTC QOL questionnaires (C30 + tumour specific modules (EORTC BR23, LC13, CR29, OV28, PR25))
- QLQ-C30 followed by the interview to allow the patient to raise any other issues not addressed in the C30.
- Explore both short and long-term problems affecting illness experience and factors affecting QOL.
- ? appropriate and not distressing.
- SSM then completed. Patient encouraged to discuss any additional issues.

Preliminary issues

Symptoms especially disturbed sleep

Physical functioning

Emotional/spiritual functioning

Illness as part of life - Part of growing older

Health and social care usage

Social support