

Professionals' experiences using Patient Reported Outcome Measures in basic palliative care

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BACKGROUND

The need for improvement of basic palliative care for people with cancer and other life-threatening diseases has gained considerable focus in Denmark. One accentuated solution is Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROM).

To include other diseases than cancer a new PROM (based on EORTC-QLQ-C15-PAL added new questions related to lung, heart and kidney diseases, the family, spirituality, intimacy etc.) has been developed by The Danish Health Data Authority.

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the new PROM from a professional perspective in basic palliative care for people with life-threatening cancer, lung, heart and kidney diseases.

STUDY DESIGN

A feasibility study was conducted from November 2021 to October 2022 at 11 sites (Danish hospitals, municipalities and general practices).

The healthcare professionals completed an evaluation survey after each consultation evaluating the feasibility of the new PROM from a professional perspective.

Group interviews were conducted with the healthcare professionals to explore their experiences in more depth.

DATA

288 healthcare professionals answered the evaluation survey. A total of 42 healthcare professionals participated in the 11 group interviews.

Common experiences derived from the group interviews

Screening for palliative needs and improved treatment

- The healthcare professionals gain a different insight into the patients' needs and challenges.

Dialogue support

- Some find that PROM gives structure to the conversation.
Others find that PROM makes the conversation artificial and rigid.

Dialogue support

- The questionnaire highlights that sensitive topics can be discussed.

ANALYSES

The quantitative data were analysed descriptively. The qualitative data were analysed thematically into three themes:

1. A screening tool for palliative care needs
2. A dialogue support tool
3. Relevance for initiation of palliative care services.

RESULTS

Preliminary results show that 80 % were satisfied with the questionnaire in relation to screening for palliative care needs. 49 % identified new needs of the patient with the help of the PROM and

54 % took action based on the PROM answers. The box above shows common experiences derived from the qualitative interviews.

CONCLUSION

This study suggests that PROM is a useful tool in palliative care, contributing to screening for palliative care needs and as a dialogue support tool.

REFERENCE: A Danish report has been published at the PRO Secretary at the The Danish Health Data Authority in 2022 [Evaluering af pilotafprøvning af PRO til basal palliation – Rapport udarbejdet for PRO-sekretariatet, Sundhedsdatastyrelsen].

