**Do cancer centres routinely assess patients’ quality of life – and if so, how and for what purpose?: A cross-sectional study in the Cancer Centre Network of the European Palliative Care Research Centre**

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**Background**

Routinely assessing quality of life (QoL) of cancer patients is crucial for improving patient-centred cancer care. Yet, we know little about whether or how cancer centres assess QoL in clinical practice or research.

**Aim**

To investigate the nature, frequency, timing, and purpose of collecting QoL data in clinical practice and research across cancer centres.

**Method**

Cross-sectional study of the European Palliative Care Research Centre’s network of 27 cancer centres in Europe, Canada, and Australia. Centre representatives identified the most suitable persons within their cancer ward and palliative care unit (PCU) to complete the online survey, including questions, e.g. QOL assessment, documentation and outcomes used. In June 2021, potential respondents were invited to participate and a follow-up e-mail was sent in October 2021.

**Results**

So far, there were 7 respondents working in a cancer ward; 8 in a PCU. Of the 7 cancer wards, only 1 routinely measured and documented QoL for the majority of their patients for research and/or practice. In 7 of the 8 PCUs, QoL is routinely measured and documented for the majority of cancer patients for research and/or practice. We found 7 and 5 QoL outcome measures used for research and practice, respectively (e.g. EORTC-QLQ-C30).

**Conclusion**

Based on preliminary results, PCUs seem to routinely assess and document patient’s QoL more often than cancer wards. Different outcomes are used to measure QoL. Findings suggest for making routine assessment of QoL a standard practice in cancer centres and to develop a minimum dataset to measure patients’ QoL.