INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the QoL of patients has been recognized as a key factor influencing treatment decisions in ABC.

Objectives

The objective of this global survey was to assess real-world evidence of the QoL of patients with ABC treated in ABC centers around the world.

Methods

A total of 920 patients participated in the survey; 279 oncologists and 225 oncology nurses.

RESULTS

HCP Participant Characteristics

- A total of 920 patients participated in the survey; 279 oncologists and 225 oncology nurses.
- Most HCPs were practicing in a university hospital (36%); private hospital (25%); or a community setting (42%).

Patient Participant Characteristics

- 231 patients reported locally advanced BC and 229 patients were treated with ABC.
- Premenopausal patients accounted for 62% of all patients, while 38% were postmenopausal.
- Patients were also from 7 different countries.

METHODS

- This global survey was designed by a steering committee of oncologists and patients with ABC and was approved by an ethics committee for deployment among HCPs and patients with ABC.
- Data were collected between July 2020 and May 2021, via a cross-sectional online survey of HCPs (oncologists and oncology nurses) and patients with HR+/HER2- ABC in seven countries.
- Recruitment of patients was done through a third party, the HCPs were surveyed on the management of ABC, including the importance of QoL, and how is assessed in clinical practice.
- Recruitment of patients was done through HCPs and advocacy groups; the patients were surveyed on the importance of their QoL, and the frequency of QoL discussions with HCPs while undergoing treatment for ABC.

HCPs often felt QoL was not important for treatment decisions.

- Familiarity with available QoL tools was poor among HCPs; only 48% of oncologists and 47% of oncology nurses was aware of the QoL tools used in ABC clinical trials.
- Routine assessments of QoL may be limited by time, and patients were most likely to not report side effects to their HCPs if they are not asked or out of concern their treatment may be changed.
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QoL of patients with ABC should be formally assessed regularly.

- QoL questionnaires included paper and pencil or electronic.
- HCPs were asked to consider QoL when making treatment decisions.
- Oncologists were more likely than oncology nurses to ask their patients about QoL.

QoL tools capture QoL in practice.

- Oncologists used their own tools to measure QoL that they have developed based on their experience, while 23% of oncology nurses used the tools used in ABC clinical trials.
- Oncologists more frequently used their own tools to measure QoL than oncology nurses.

DISCUSSION

- Oncologists more frequently used their own tools to measure QoL than oncology nurses.
- Oncologists felt QoL was more important with each subsequent line of therapy, while patients felt the opposite.
- Oncologists were more likely than oncology nurses to ask their patients about QoL.
- Oncologists more frequently used their own tools to measure QoL than oncology nurses.

REFERENCES


Figures

- Figure 1: Distribution of survey participation among patients.
- Figure 2: Distribution of survey participation among HCPs.
- Figure 3: Oncologist and oncology nurse responses regarding the importance of QoL.
- Figure 4: Oncologist responses regarding the importance of QoL for patients receiving different lines of therapies.
- Figure 5: Patient responses at different line of therapies regarding the importance of QoL.
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- Figure 9: Comparison of oncologists’ and oncology nurses’ responses regarding QoL in clinical practice.
- Figure 10: Oncologist and oncology nurse responses to statements about routine assessments of QoL.

Appendices

- Table 1: Patient participant characteristics.
- Table 2: HCP participant characteristics.
- Table 3: Disconnect: More HCPs than patients reported discussions about QoL, at follow-ups.
- Table 4: Disconnect: Oncologists responded that QoL was more important with each subsequent line of therapy, while patients felt the opposite.

Acknowledgments

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