

AN ATTENTIVE EVALUATION OF PATIENTS' NEEDS BY ADMINISTRATION OF NEQ (NEEDS EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE) IN OUR CLINICAL PRACTICE



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INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

Introduction

Cancer and its treatment modify the type of needs (N.) of men and women. NEQ (needs evaluation questionnaire) is a validated tool to assess the informative, psychological, social, and practical needs

Objectives

Our aim was to evaluate our patients' otherwise unexpressed needs through the administration of NEQ ¹.

METHODS

We administered NEQ (shown in figure 1) to patients that accessed our supportive care service, for unplanned visits, from August 2016 to January 2017. We categorized the explored needs into five groups, as proposed by Annunziata et al ².

RESULTS

- 1- I need more information about my diagnosis (Yes/NO)
- 2- I need more information about my future condition (Yes/NO)
- 3- I need more information about the exams I am undergoing (Yes/NO)
- 4- I need more explanations of treatments (Yes/NO)
- 5- I need to be more involved in therapeutic choices (Yes/NO)
- 6- I need clinicians and nurses to give me more comprehensible information (Yes/NO)
- 7- I need clinicians to be more sincere with me (Yes/NO)
- 8- I need to have a better dialogue with clinicians (Yes/NO)
- 9- I need my symptoms (pain, nausea, insomnia, etc.) to be better controlled (Yes/NO)
- 10- I need more help with eating, dressing, and going to the bathroom (Yes/NO)
- 11- I need better respect for my intimacy (Yes/NO)
- 12- I need better attention from nurses (Yes/NO)
- 13- I need to be more reassured by the clinicians (Yes/NO)
- 14- I need better services from the hospital (bathrooms, meals, cleaning) (Yes/NO)
- 15- I need to have more economic-insurance information (tickets, invalidity, etc.) (Yes/NO)
- 16- In relation to my illness I need economic help (Yes/NO)
- 17- I need to speak with a psychologist (Yes/NO)
- 18- I need to speak with a spiritual advisor (Yes/NO)
- 19- I need to speak with people who have this same experience (Yes/NO)
- 20- I need to be more reassured by my relatives (Yes/NO)
- 21- I need to feel more useful within my family (Yes/NO)
- 22- I need to feel less abandoned (Yes/NO)
- 23- I need to receive less commiseration from other people (Yes/NO)

We collected data from 137 patients. Results are shown in Figure 1.

Our patients expressed major informative needs (42.3%); in particular, they asked for more information about their future condition and their diagnosis. Secondly, they also express concerns about their relational condition (22.5%), in particular they are worried about their usefulness within their families. Thirdly, they express material needs (22.2%), in particular they are concerned with economical issues. Fourthly, they have psychoemotional needs (20.7%), in particular they would like to speak with people who had similar experiences. Lastly, they express needs about assistance and care (11.7%): a particular concern about the respect of their intimacy is expressed.

Figure 1. NEQ questionnaire

Item	Informative N.	N. related to assistance/care	Relational N.	N. for psychoemotional support	Material N.
Item 1	48,9%				
Item 2	62,8%				
Item 3	43,8%				
Item 4	46 %				
Item 5	35%				
Item 6	31,4%				
Item 7	31,4%				
Item 8	43,1%				
Item 13	38%				
Item 10		11,7%			
Item 11		16,1%			
Item 12		7,3%			
Item 20			18,3%		
Item 21			28,5%		
Item 22			19,7%		
Item 23			23,4%		
Item 17				16,8%	
Item 18				13,1%	
Item 19				32,1%	
Item 14					21,9%
Item 15					32,9%
Item 16					11,7%
Mean	43,3	11,7	22,5	20,7	22,2

Table 1. Percentages of patients that answered YES to the different items and subgroups analysis

CONCLUSIONS

The administration of NEQ is a useful tool to understand our patients' desires and needs. It allowed us to investigate about some needs that otherwise would not have been cared for. We then suggest an attentive evaluation of the patients' needs at baseline and during treatment in order to have an holistic clinical approach.

REFERENCES

- 1 Bonacchi A, Miccinesi G (2016) .Use of the Needs Evaluation Questionnaire with cancer outpatients. *Support Care Cancer* 2016 Aug;24(8):3507-15
- 2 Annunziata MA, Muzzatti B, Altoè G (2009) A contribution to the validation of the Needs Evaluation Questionnaire (NEQ): a study in the Italian context. *Psycho-Oncology* 18(5):549-553