

Chronic Fatigue in Testicular Cancer Survivors

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INTRODUCTION

- Testicular cancer survivors are at risk of chronic fatigue (CF) as a result from cancer and cancer treatment.
- CF is described as one of the most troublesome and common long-term symptom among cancer survivors.
- CF is often reported to have a negative effect on quality of life.

PURPOSE

The aims of this study in a sample of testicular cancer survivors are:

- To describe the level of CF in 1998 – 2002 (T1) (mean 11 years after diagnosis).
- To describe the level of CF in 2007- 2008 (T2) (mean 8 years after T1), and
- To investigate changes in level of CF from T1 to T2

MATERIALS & METHODS

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Men aged 18-75 years treated for unilateral germ cell TC in Norway (1980-1994).
- <60 years at T1.
- Completed Fatigue Questionnaire at T1 and T2.

INSTRUMENTS

- Demographic questionnaire.
- Fatigue Questionnaire.

DATA ANALYSIS

- Descriptive statistics were generated for demographic and clinical characteristics.
- Chi-squared test were used to investigate changes in level of CF from T1 to T2.

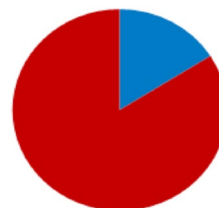
RESULTS

Table 1: Demographic and clinical characteristics in testicular cancer survivors at T1.

Characteristics, N = 934	N (%)
Partnered relations	712 (76)
Years of education > 13	350 (38)
Currently working	861 (93)
Economic problems	109 (12)
	Mean (SD)
Age at T1, years	42.7 (7.8)
Age at diagnosis, years	31.3 (7.5)
Follow-up time, years	11.3 (4.1)

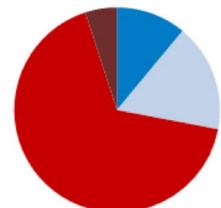
Diagram 1: Changes in Chronic Fatigue from T1 to T2

Incidence 1998 (T1)



■ Chronic fatigue
■ Not chronic fatigue

Incidence 2007 (T2)



■ Chronic fatigue at T1 and T2
■ Chronic Fatigue at T2
■ Not Chronic Fatigue at T1 and T2
■ Not Chronic Fatigue at T2

Changes in Chronic Fatigue 17,1 % (95 % CI 14,7 % - 19,5 %)
Chronic Fatigue in 1998 16,0 % (95 % CI 1,6 % - 18,3 %)
Chronic Fatigue in 2007 28,4 % (95 % CI 25,5 % - 31,3 %)
Significance of the distributions i 1998 og 2007 p < 0,001

CONCLUSIONS

- A significant number of TCSs report CF many years after treatment.
- This study shows a significant increase in CF between T1 and T2