

QUALITY OF LIFE AND SATISFACTION WITH CARE IN A CONTEMPORARY COHORT OF PANCREATIC CANCER PATIENTS



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BACKGROUND

- Pancreatic cancer patients face significant disease- and treatment-related morbidity.
- With advances in surgical techniques and introduction of new systemic therapy regimens, understanding these patients' quality of life (QOL) and their satisfaction with the care that they currently receive is important.
- This knowledge can better inform the design of future care delivery models.

METHODS

- Consecutive pancreatic cancer patients who were referred to and seen at a tertiary pancreatic cancer center in British Columbia were asked to complete the EORTC-QLQ C30 and PAN26 questionnaires before and after surgery.
- They also completed surveys focused on satisfaction with their management.
- The pancreatic cancer center was established in 2011 with a focus on efficient triage, rapid access to multidisciplinary care, and early involvement of nurse practitioners.
- Using independent samples t-test, we correlated clinical characteristics with QOL and satisfaction scores.

RESULTS

- In total, 167 patients were included: median age was 62.8 (IQR 13.25) years, 45% were men, and 70% were ECOG 0/1.
- Baseline mean QOL scores were 62.5, 90.0, 83.3, 58.3 and 91.6 in the overall rating, physical, emotional, cognitive and social functional domains, respectively.
- Advanced age (>70 years), weight loss (>10) kg, and poor ECOG performance score were associated with lower overall rating of the QOL.
- Surgery had a positive impact on specific areas, particularly overall rating and all the functional domains (including physical, emotional, cognitive and social domains), where we observed a mean change in scores ranging from (8.3-16.6).
- 94% of patients rated the overall care they received as good, very good or excellent.
- Likewise, 80% of the patients were moderately or very satisfied with the amount of information they received and 84% of the patients graded the helpfulness of the overall information they received as moderately or very helpful.

QLQ domains	Age		P value
	< 70 years Mean (+ SD)	>70 years Mean (+ SD)	
Overall rating	58.6 (20.5)	43.2 (25.1)	0.017
Appetite loss	28.9 (31.3)	52.3 (40.2)	0.022
QLQ domains	ECOG performance score		P value
	0-1	2+	
Overall rating	66.6	35.7	<0.0001
Physical functioning	91.5	54.4	0.005
Role functioning	78.7	30.9	0.001
Appetite loss	19.4	57.1	0.021
Fatigue	30.5	68.2	0.003
Pain	20.8	59.5	0.018
QLQ domains	Weight loss		P value
	< 10 kg	≥10 kg	
Overall rating	66.6	40.7	0.010
Physical functioning	92.3	75.8	0.035
Appetite loss	20.8	70.3	0.004
pain	14.5	46.2	0.034

CONCLUSIONS

- Despite the morbidity of pancreatic cancer, patients referred to and seen at a tertiary pancreatic cancer center reported good QOL and satisfaction levels, suggesting that the centralization of pancreatic cancer care is effective in addressing high priority needs.