

CONTEXT

Cancer and its treatment very often have an impact on the intimate and sexual lives of patients and their partners.

Five years after their cancer diagnosis, 57.3% of patients report a deterioration in their sexuality, with 30.8% declaring it to be significant¹.

1/ VICAN V - Rapport INCa (2018)
 2/ Panier référentiel SOS - INCa (2016)
 3/ Instruction - DGOS/R3/INCa/2017/62 (2017)

Yet only 7.5% of patients were able to talk about their intimate life during their initial consultation, with little or no dialogue initiated by the healthcare team, despite the fact that the Supportive care INCa Reference Package² (2016) and an National Instruction (2017)³ have made this approach compulsory.

In 2019, according to data from the activity reports of the Cancer Coordination Centres (3Cs), only 31% of health establishments authorised to treat cancer in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) and Corsica offered treatment for sexual dysfunction.

METHODS

The Dispositif Régional Spécifique du Cancer (DSRC) OncoPaca-Corse set up, in 2020, a Regional Expert Group on Sexuality and Cancer, made up of 35 health and care professionals, representing both hospitals and out-of-hospitals facilities.



OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL EXPERT GROUP

- > To design and run awareness and information campaigns
- > To produce practice aids that meet the needs of professionals and patients

The group meets at least twice a year, and more often for specific projects.

The group's work is based on the national recommendations of the INCa 2021 Thesaurus on preserving sexual health⁴.

4/ Thésaurus Préservation de la santé sexuelle et cancer -INCa (2021)

PRODUCTIONS & RESULTS

DYNAMIC DIGITAL COMMUNICATION on social networks, newsletters and the DSRC OncoPaca-Corse website.



FREE ACCESS REGIONAL TRAINING COURSES 2 modules : basic and advanced for regional professionals (100 people trained).



REPLAY AVAILABLE



PRACTICE GUIDELINES "SEXUALITY & CANCER: SPECIFIC CARE" (recommendations, key points, levers) to complement the 1st Professional Good Practice Sheets and Patient Information Sheets.



PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CONFERENCES to promote good practice tools related to the topic Sexuality & Cancer (J3S, AIUS, Regional Cancer Forum, DAC days, etc.)



For more information, please visit : oncopacacorse.org/

CONCLUSION

The initiative of the DSRC OncoPaca-Corse and the work and involvement of his Regional Expert Group, as part of the Ten-Year Cancer Control Strategy 2021-2030⁶ (action II), are helping to increase the importance of intimate and sexual health in the treatment of cancer patients.

Sexual health is recognised as a clinical marker and a relevant indicator of well-being and quality of life⁷, yet it is still a taboo subject for professionals and patients.

A sustained effort for the topic and enhanced collaboration with stakeholders must be pursued to ensure tangible and lasting results for the benefit of patients

6/ Stratégie décennale de lutte contre les cancers 2021-2030 - INCa (2021)

7/ Référentiel AFSOS (2019)

In 2022, thanks to awareness campaigns and the deployment of dedicated tools (for professionals and patients), **52% of the institutions in PACA and Corsica offered treatment for sexual disorders⁵.**

5/ EDL Parcours SOS-Ville-Hôpital-DSRC OPC (2022)