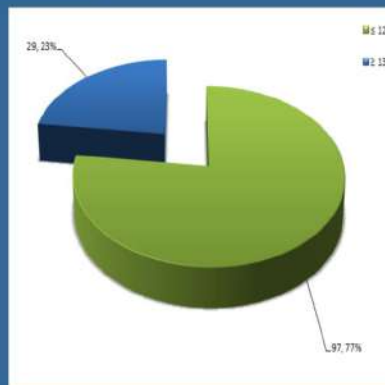


## Introduction

NEUROPATHIC PAIN IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE IN SUPPORTIVE CARE MANAGEMENT AMONG CANCER PATIENTS. THIS STUDY AIMS TO EVALUATE THE PREVALENCE OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN NIGERIAN CANCER PATIENTS AS WELL AS SOME FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN THESE PATIENTS.

**Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics, Cancer type and therapy of study participants**

Variables	Frequency (%)
<b>Age</b>	
= 52	66 (52.4)
= 53	60 (47.6)
Mean ± SD	53 ± 13.68
Range	21 – 85
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	88 (69.8)
Male	38 (30.2)
<b>Level of education</b>	
Uneducated	14 (11.1)
Primary	22 (17.5)
Secondary	34 (27.0)
Tertiary	56 (44.4)
<b>Cancer type</b>	
Solid	90 (71.4)
Non solid	36 (28.6)
<b>On therapy</b>	
Yes	100 (79.4)
No	26 (20.6)



**Table 2: Association between neuropathic pain occurrence and Socio-demographic variables**

Variables	NEUROPATHIC PAIN OCCURRENCE		$\chi^2$	p-value
	= 12 (%)	= 13 (%)		
<b>Age</b>			0.862	0.353
= 52	53 (80.3)	13 (19.7)		
= 53	44 (73.3)	16 (26.7)		
<b>Gender</b>			0.014	0.907
Female	68 (77.3)	20 (22.7)		
Male	29 (76.3)	9 (23.7)		
<b>Level of education</b>			0.330	0.954
Uneducated	11 (78.6)	3 (21.4)		
Primary	17 (77.3)	5 (22.7)		
Secondary	25 (73.5)	9 (26.5)		
Tertiary	44 (78.6)	12 (21.4)		
<b>Cancer type</b>			0.645	0.422
Solid	71 (78.9)	19 (21.1)		
Non solid	26 (72.2)	10 (27.8)		
<b>On therapy</b>			1.111	0.292
Yes	79 (79.0)	21 (21.0)		
No	18 (69.2)	8 (30.8)		

## Key Words

CANCER, NEUROPATHY, PAIN, THERAPY, DIAGNOSIS, PATIENTS.

## Results

THE PREVALENCE OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN THE STUDY POPULATION WAS 23%. THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE PATIENTS WAS 53 YEARS. OF THE 126 PATIENTS EVALUATED, 69.8% WERE FEMALES. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN NEUROPATHIC PAIN OCCURRENCE AND AGE, SEX, CANCER TYPE, AND CANCER THERAPY. THERE WAS ALSO NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SEVERITY OF PAIN AND AGE, SEX, CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND CANCER THERAPY. THERE WAS NO ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SOME SYMPTOMS OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN AND AGE, SEX, CANCER TYPE AND THERAPY. IN THE MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS, PERFORMANCE STATUS AND USE OF SOME PAIN MODIFIERS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY ASSOCIATED WITH NEUROPATHIC PAIN. PERFORMANCE STATUS, PAIN MODIFIERS AND SOME SYMPTOMS OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN WERE ASSOCIATED WITH PAIN SEVERITY.

## CONCLUSIONS

THIS BEING A FIRST STUDY IN NIGERIA, THE PREVALENCE OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN NIGERIAN CANCER PATIENTS IS RELATIVELY HIGH WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER STUDIES. PERFORMANCE STATUS AND THE USE OF SOME PAIN MODIFIERS ARE PREDICTORS OF NEUROPATHIC PAIN IN THE NIGERIAN CANCER PATIENT. FURTHER STUDIES, ESPECIALLY ON DIFFERENT CANCER TYPES, ARE ENCOURAGED FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT.