

# Exploring the provision of services to support those living with cancer-related pain: A UK perspective.

M Galligan (1), M Tanay (2), J Cook, J Armoogum (3), R Crighton (4), S Chapman (5).  
 1.Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust 2.Kings College London 3.Royal United Bath 3. University West of England, (4) North Devon NHS Trust, 5. Imperial Health NHS Foundation Trust



## Introduction

Cancer-related pain (CRP) is one of the most prevalent symptoms reported across all tumour groups. CRP is complex and impacts on all aspects of daily life including physical, spiritual, emotional, and social domains. The nature of CRP is complex and can be a mixture of acute, chronic and breakthrough pain states. However, the provision of support for CRP varies across the UK. There is a need to understand the current provision of CRP services across the UK.



## Method

An online survey was developed to map CRP services. Questions were developed by 3 researchers and then tested by experts in CRP and cancer care.

Ethical approval was obtained via Kings College London prior to commencing data collection. The survey was distributed online via social media for a period of 4 weeks. Descriptive data analysis was used to identify trends and to map current provision of CRP services.

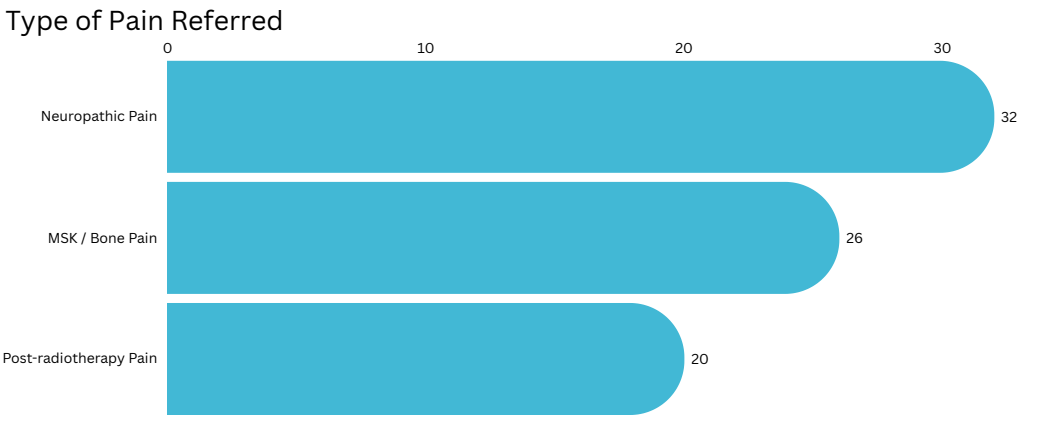



## Results

Sixty-three responses were obtained, most services were in the Northwest (n=22), this was followed by the Southwest (n=17). Interestingly there was no responses from Northern Ireland, Scotland, and East Midlands.




## Results



Across all the services pain was the most common reason for referral, with neuropathic pain being the most common type of pain reported by those accessing the services.

This included a range of presentations for neuropathic pain including chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy.

Following referral to the service 29% (n=18) did not have access to a multi-disciplinary assessment, however 79% (n=50) would consider ongoing referral to rehabilitation services.




## Conclusion

CRP is a universal phenomenon that impacts all people affected by cancer during treatment and beyond. However, the provision of CRP services varies significantly in location and service design. In order to ensure consist support for those impacted by CRP there is a need to ensure access to specialist CRP services to improve its assessment and management.



## Reference

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