

Testing the feasibility of establishing a cohort of lung cancer patients to investigate recovery following surgery with curative intent

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Introduction

Little is known about support needs and patterns of recovery among lung cancer patients following surgical treatment with curative intent. Existing Quality of Life data is limited, contradictory and does not always address issues important to patients, such as the impact of cancer on their everyday lives [1,2]. The collection of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) using a holistic model of recovery of health and well-being would allow a greater understanding of the factors that enable people to regain their health, what prevents this from happening and what might be put in place to facilitate recovery. We are conducting an innovative study to test the feasibility of establishing a cohort of patients to collect PROMs and investigate recovery of health and well-being after lung cancer surgery.

Aim

To test whether it is feasible to gather information from a large group of lung cancer patients treated with curative intent through patient completed questionnaires, repeated over time.

Methods

A prospective, longitudinal cohort study design was employed. Eligible lung cancer patients, due to undergo surgery with curative intent, have been recruited at nine geographical sites across the UK (see Figure 1). Sites chosen included both large treatment (surgical) centres and small referring centres. The first site opened in August 2013, other sites opened between October and December 2013. Recruitment will finish on 31st January 2014. Participants complete questionnaires before surgery and three months later. Examples of the measures used and data collected during the study are shown in Table 1. A process evaluation of study procedures, using semi-structured interviews with patient participants and local site staff, will follow the recruitment phase of the study.

Table 1: Study Measures

Type of measure	Source	Key examples
Clinical measures	Patient medical records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer type Histological diagnosis/EGFR status TNM stage Comorbidities Performance status Recurrence Other treatments
Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs)	Patient completed questionnaires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General health Quality of life Wellbeing Symptoms Coping Depression Confidence to self-manage
Background measures	Patient completed questionnaires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-demographics Lifestyle (including smoking status) Return to work



Figure 1: Study Sites



Findings to date

As of the 22nd January 2014, patients had been recruited in eight out of the nine study sites. 203 patients had been identified as eligible to take part in the study. As shown in Figure 2, two thirds, 66%, gave their consent to take part: all 133 consented for data from their patient records to be analysed, 121 also consented to complete questionnaires pre-surgery and three months post-surgery.

By the 22nd January 2014, 89 pre-surgery questionnaires and two post-surgery questionnaires had been completed and returned. The last three month post-surgery questionnaire is due to be returned in April 2014.

Conclusions

Study findings indicate that it is possible to recruit lung cancer patients in a variety of centres in the UK using our study methods. The majority of patients recruited have completed pre-surgery questionnaires, suggesting acceptability of this form of data collection. This is the first study to test the feasibility of recruiting lung cancer patients to assess wellbeing and to understand patterns of recovery. Informed by the results obtained, we plan to develop a larger scale study, involving a cohort of around 1000 patients followed over a number of years. This novel approach to understanding lung cancer survival will enhance our ability to offer patients appropriate and timely support and identify who is most at risk of protracted recovery.

203 Eligible patients

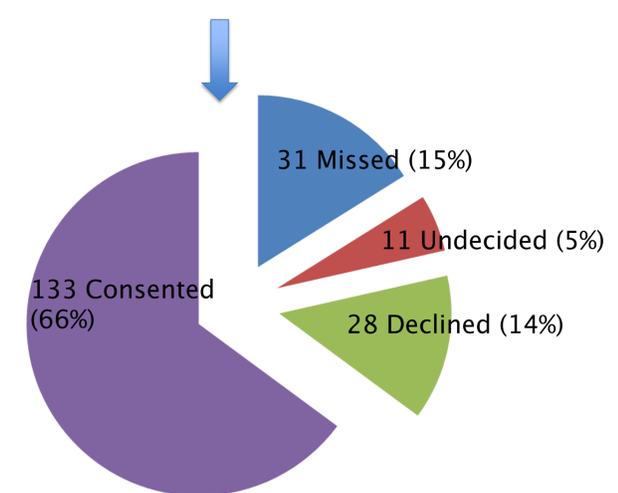


Figure 2: Recruitment Flow as at 22/01/14

References

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