Quality of Life (QOL) Results from Clinical Trials

(A primer for New Investigators)

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Cancer Care and Epidemiology Division

Quality of Life Committee Co-Chair Canadian Cancer Trials Group

Overview: Objectives

- Be familiar with the CCTG structure re: QOL Committee
- Understand the nature of QOL data
 - Philosophy
 - Source Questionnaires
 - Data collection
- Become familiar with Scale/instrument interpretation issues
 - Reliability, validity, responsiveness
- Become familiar with clinical utility of QOL data
- New Directions of CCTG QOL Committee



Brief History

1979: NCIC (now CCSRI) decides to have a formal cooperative clinical trials group

1980: NCIC Clinical Trials Group established at Queen's University (Dr. Pater)

1982: First Phase III Trial with QOL (BR.5)

1989: Establishment of a QOL committee (Dr. J. Pater)

- Dr. David Osoba and Dr. Benny Zee
- Dr. Andrea Bezjak
- Drs. Jolie Ringash/Michael Brundage



Brief History





Brief History

Historical Example: NCIC BR.5

Chemotherapy Can Prolong Survival in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer—Report of a Canadian Multicenter Randomized Trial

By Edna Rapp, Joseph L. Pater, Andrew Willan, Yvon Cormier, Nevin Murray, William K. Evans, D. Ian Hodson, David A. Clark, Ronald Feld, Andrew M. Arnold, Joseph I. Ayoub, Kenneth S. Wilson, Jean Latreille, Rafel F. Wierzbicki, and Donald P. Hill

Journal of Clinical Oncology, Vol 6, No 4 (April), 1988: pp 633-641



BR.5 QOL

- Shortly after the trial started, centres were asked to participate in the QOL component of the trial
 - They were given the option to use both Sickness Impact Profile (SIP) and Functional Living Index – Cancer (FLIC) questionnaires, only FLIC, or not participate
- Almost all centres agreed to participate and most chose to use both instruments



After BR.5

 Low compliance (<25%) with QOL collection in BR.5 was due to many factors

 It was evident that adequate QOL data collection would not just happen



SUPPORTING COMMITTEES

DSMC

Other Supporting Committees

Lay Representatives OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clinical Trials
Committee (CTC)

Canadian
Cancer Trials Group

Central Office Kingston SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

Disease Site Committees

IND Committee

Endpoint Committees

Breast

GI

GU

Gyne

Lung

Brain

H&N

Sarcoma

Symptom

Control

Melanoma

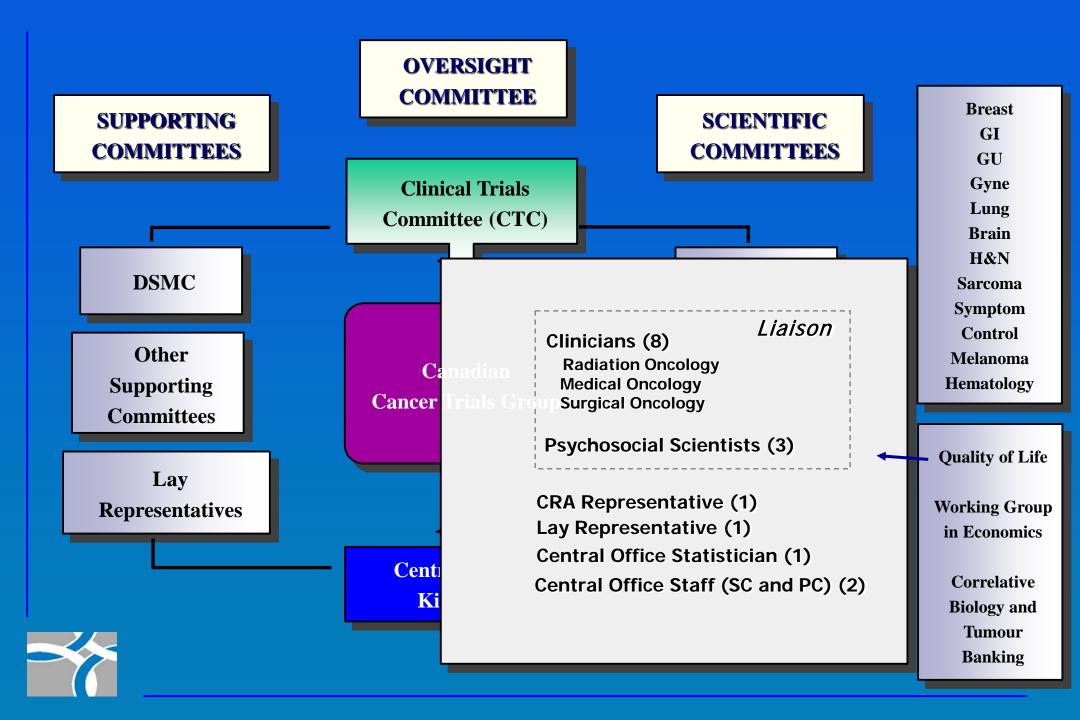
Hematology

Quality of Life

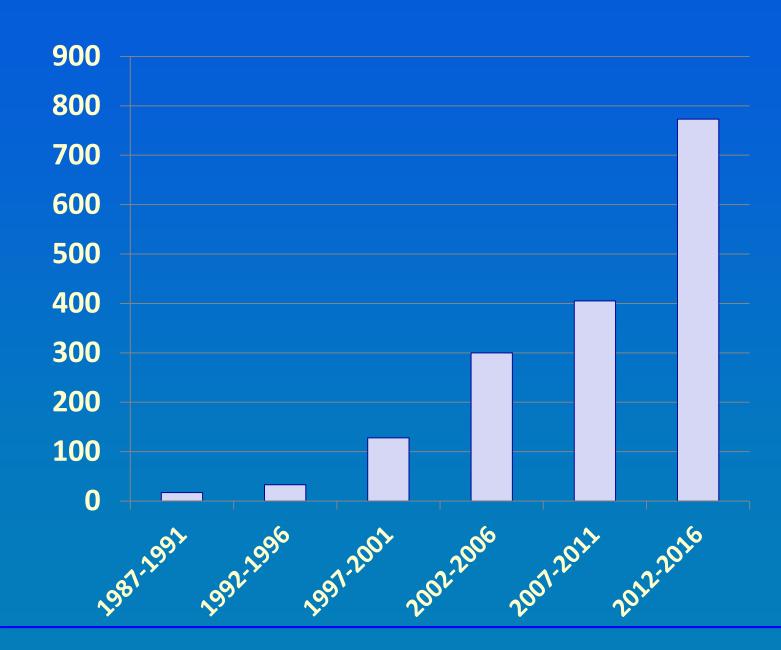
Working Group in Economics

Correlative
Biology and
Tumour
Banking





Randomized Trials with QOL Published Results





Some High-Impact Trials

- CE.6 Temozolomide and Short-Course Radiation in the Treatment of Glioblastoma Multiforme in Elderly Patients J Clin Oncol
- MA.17R Extending Aromatase-Inhibitor Adjuvant Therapy to 10 Years.
 N Engl J Med
- MA.20 Regional Nodal Irradiation in Early-Stage Breast Cancer. N Engl J Med
- HD.6 ABVD Alone versus Radiation-Based Therapy in Limited-Stage Hodgkin's Lymphoma N Engl J Med
- SC.23 Dexamethasone in the prophylaxis of radiation-induced pain flare after palliative radiotherapy for bone metastases Lancet Oncol
- PR.7 Intermittent Androgen Suppression for Rising PSA Level after Radiotherapy. N Engl J Med

PROs and HRQoL

Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs):

Provide a standardized method of measuring the patient perspective on "any outcome based on data provided by patients or patient proxies as opposed to data provided by other sources"

First – A Brief Bit of Background

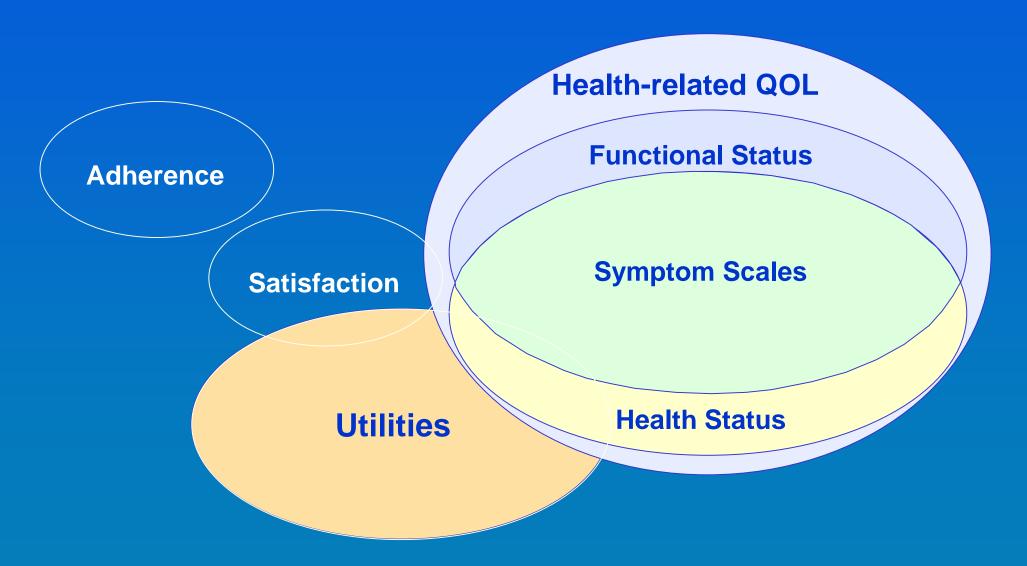
Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs):

Provide a standardized method of measuring the patient perspective on "any outcome based on data provided by patients or patient proxies as opposed to data provided by other sources"

Health-related quality of life (HRQoL):

"The extent to which one's usual or expected physical, emotional, and social well-being is affected by a medical condition and/or treatment."

Examples of Patient-Reported Outcomes



What is QOL?

Overall QOL?

- "the goodness of life" or person's overall well-being
- Influenced by:
 - patient's perspective (subjectivity)
 - multi-dimensional (many dimensions of life experience relating to specific "domains")
 - Sociocultural context (culture and value systems)

Health-related QOL?

As related to health (not housing, income, environment, etc)

What is health-related QOL?

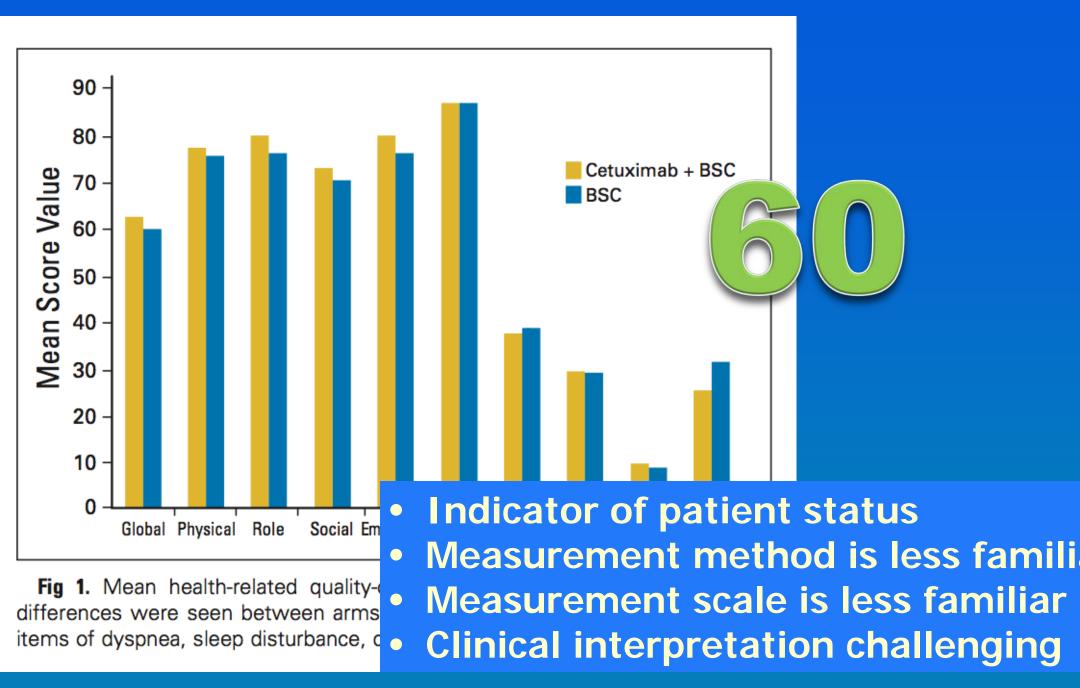
 "Optimum levels of physical, role and social function, including relationships, and the perception of health, fitness, life satisfaction and well-being."

Bowling, 1995

60



- Indicator of patient status
- Measurement method is familiar
- Measurement scale is familiar
- Clinical interpretation is familiar



- EORTC QLQ-C30+3 Instrument
- Domain: Global quality of life

How	would	you rate	your	overall	health of	during	the past week?
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Very p	oor						Excellent
How	would	you rate	your	overall	quality	of life	during the past week?
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Very p	oor						Excellent

HQL Measurement and Epidemiology

Quality of Life Data

Toxicity Data / Performance Status

Self-reported

Response-shift?

HCP/RA-reported Rater issues?

Multi-dimensional Correct dimensions?

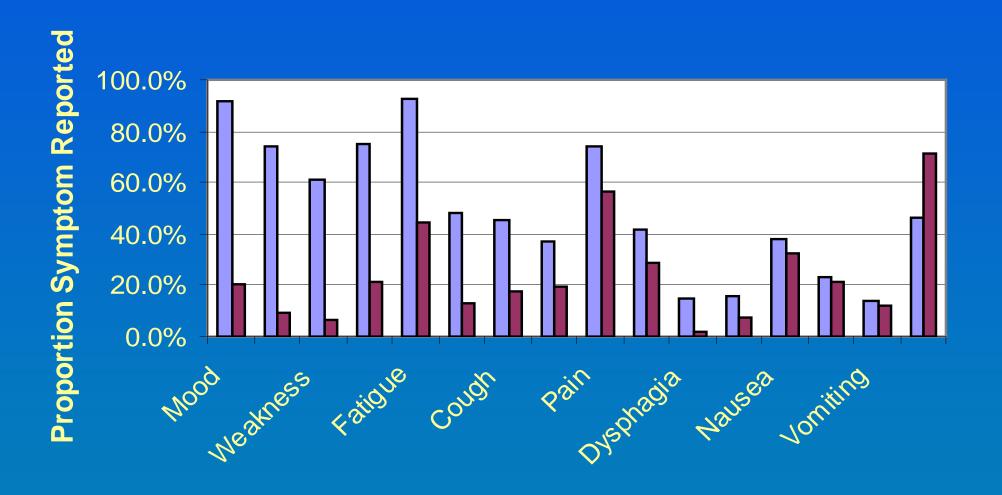
Tabulated items

Sufficient?

More complex/Unfamiliar

Less complex/More familiar

HRQL vs. Toxicity



Measuring QOL



HQL Measurement and Epidemiology

ARTICLE

The European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer QLQ-C30: A Quality-of-Life Instrument for Use in International Clinical Trials in Oncology

Neil K. Aaronson, Sam Ahmedzai, Bengt Bergman, Monika Bullinger, Ann Cull, Nicole J. Duez, Antonio Filiberti, Henning Flechtner, Stewart B. Fleishman, Johanna C. J. M. de Haes, Stein Kaasa, Marianne Klee, David Osoba, Darius Razavi, Peter B. Rofe, Simon Schraub, Kommer Sneeuw, Marianne Sullivan, Fumikazu Takeda for the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Study Group on Quality of Life*

Aaronson, JNCI 1993

	Items*
Functioning scales‡	
Physical	1-5
Role	6, 7
Cognitive	20, 25
Emotional	21-24
Social	26, 27
Global quality of life	29, 30
Symptom scales and/or items§	
Fatigue	10, 12, 18
Nausea and vomiting	14, 15
Pain	9, 19
Dyspnea	8
Sleep disturbance	11
Appetite loss	13
Constipation	16
Diarrhea	17
Financial impact	28
-	

- •Do you have any trouble doing strenuous activities like carrying a heavy shopping...
- Do you have any trouble taking a long walk
- Do you have to stay in bed or a chair for most of the day

	Items*
Functioning scales‡	
Physical	1-5
Role	6, 7
Cognitive -	20, 25
Emotional	21-24
Social Social	26, 27
Global quality of life	29, 30
Symptom scales and/or items§	
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Pain	9, 19
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Sleep disturbance	11
Appetite loss	13
Constipation	16
Diarrhea	17
Financial impact	28

- •Do you have any trouble concentrating on things, like reading a newspaper or watching television?
- •Have you had difficulty remembering things?

	Items*
Functioning scales‡	
Physical	1-5
Role	6, 7
Cognitive	20, 25
Emotional	21-24
Social	26, 27
Global quality of life	29, 30
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Pain	9, 19
Dyspnea	8
Sleep disturbance	11
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Constipation	16
Diarrhea	17
Financial impact	28

- •Has your physical condition or medical treatments interfered with your family life?
- •Has your physical condition or medical treatments interfered with your social activities?

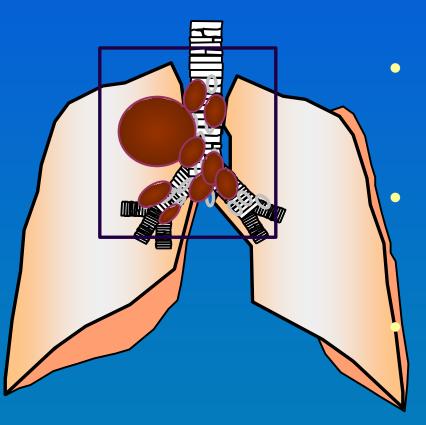
HQL Measurement and Epidemiology

- •Reliability: Does the questionnaire produce reproducible results?
 - Internal e.g. Chronbach's alpha
 - Test-retest repeatability
 - Longer questionnaires generally with higher reliability
- Validity: Does the questionnaire really measure QOL?
 - Face / Content
 - Construct

Why QOL is important

- Different treatments have similar survival
- Treatment improves survival but has severe side effects
- Treatment has no effect on survival but may improve QOL
- Cure is not possible
- Chronic diseases with high survival rates

Clinical Example: Symptomatic Locally Advanced NSCLC (SC.15)

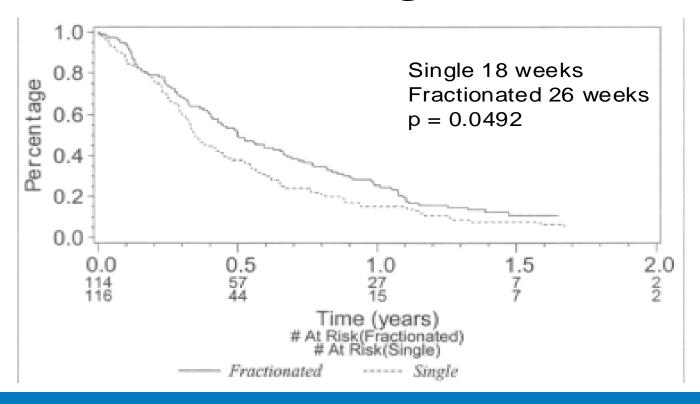


Disease too extensive for curative therapy

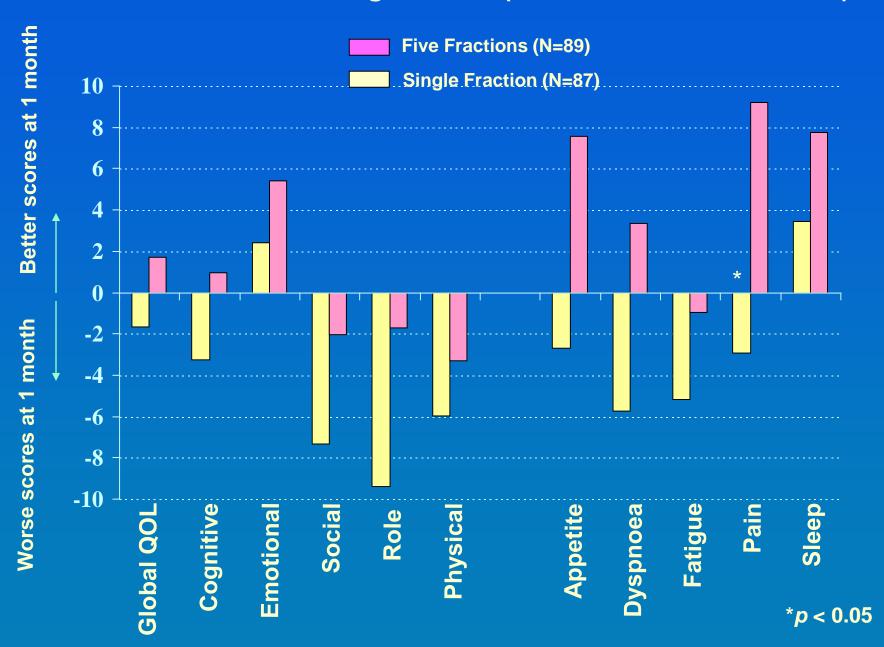
With or without metastases beyond the thorax

2000 cGy in 5 fractions *vs* 1000 cGy in 1 fraction

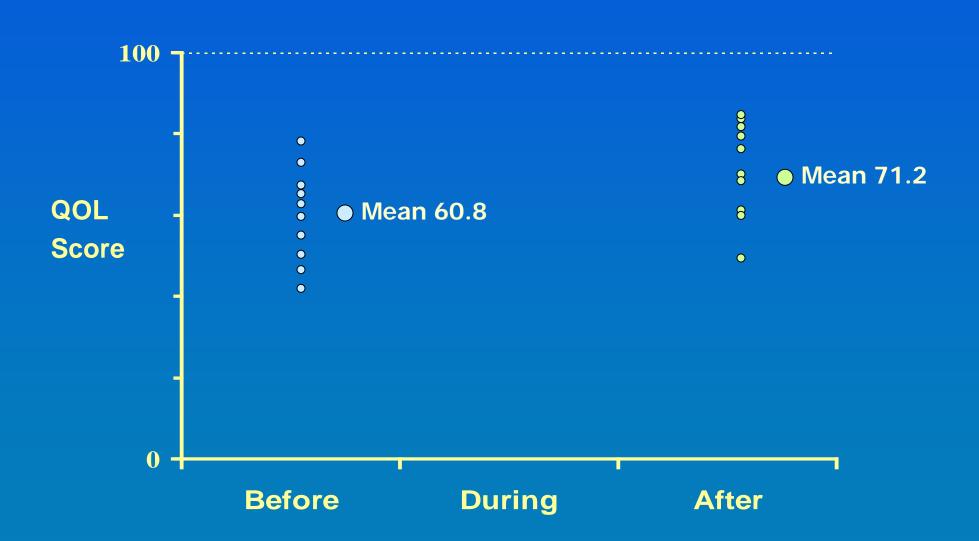
Survival according to treatment



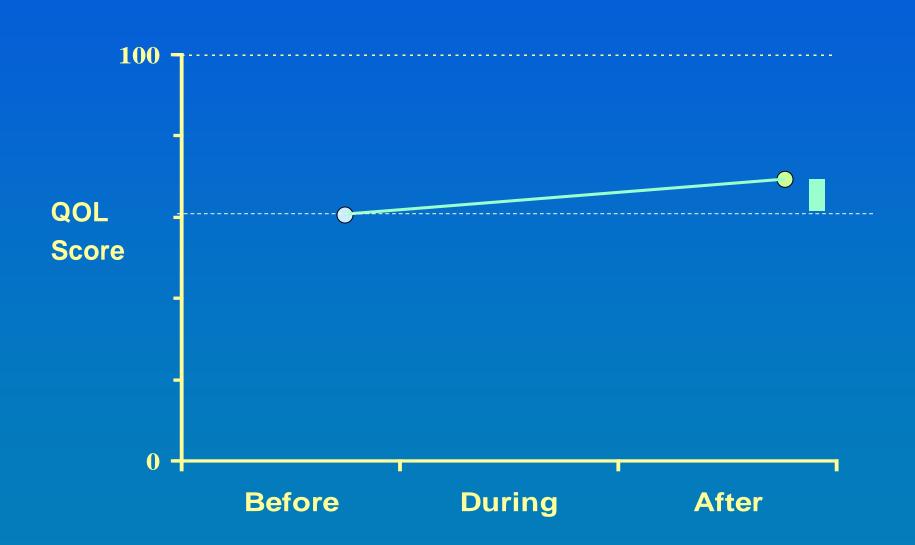
QLQ-C30 Change Scores (Baseline score to 5 weeks)



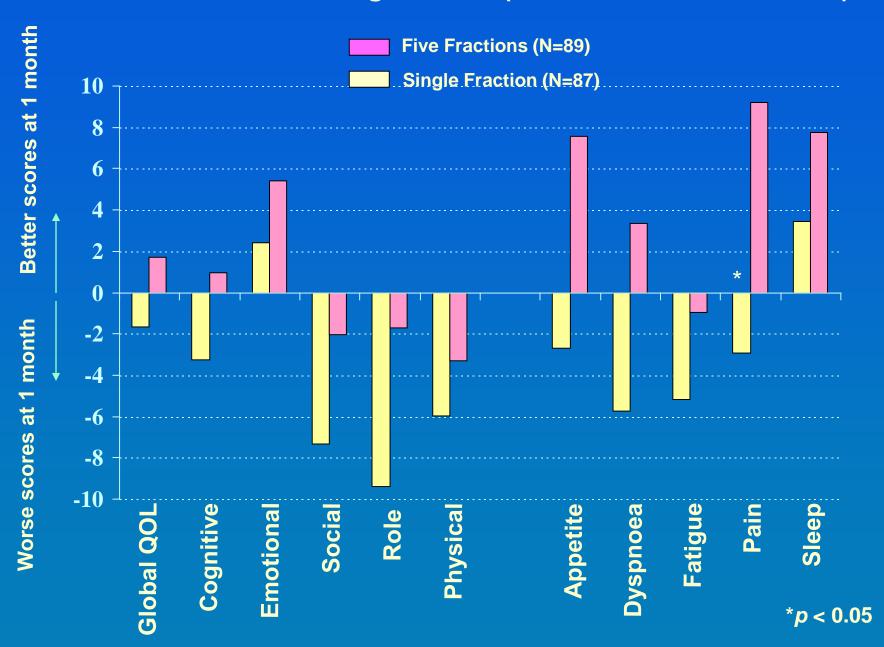
Treatment Intent: Improve QOL

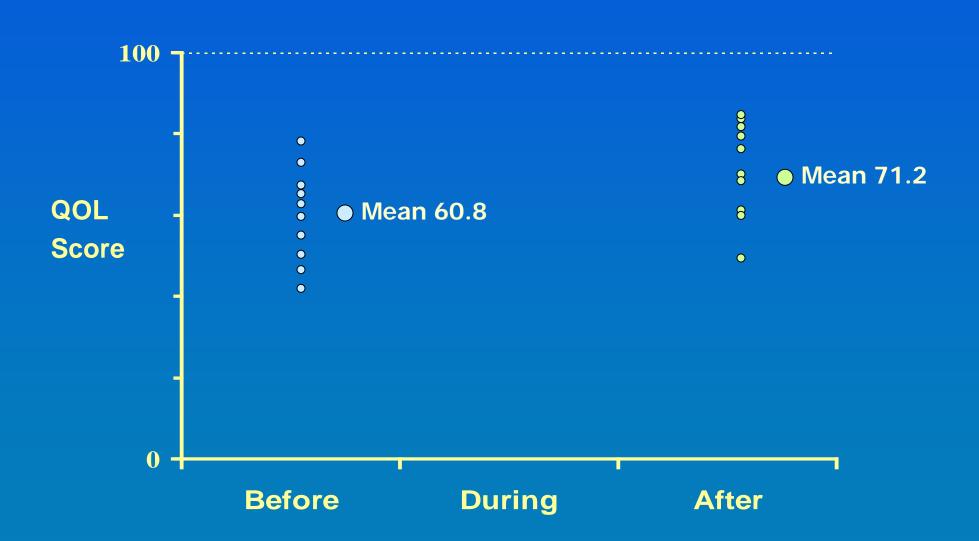


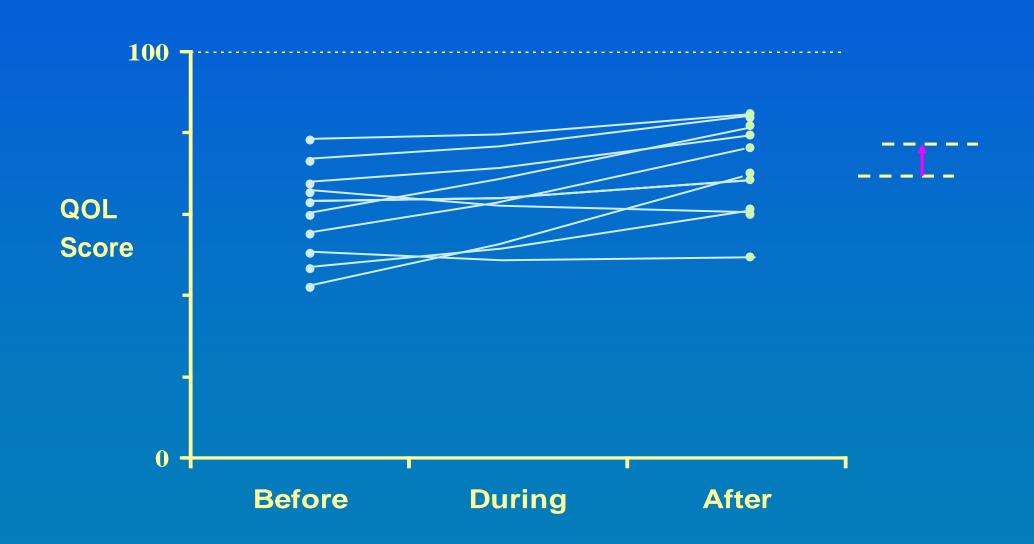
Treatment Intent: Improve QOL

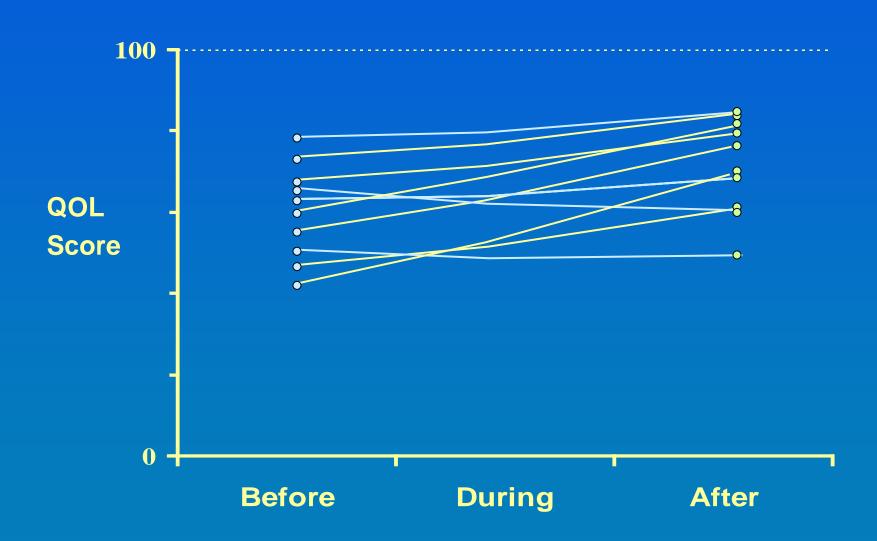


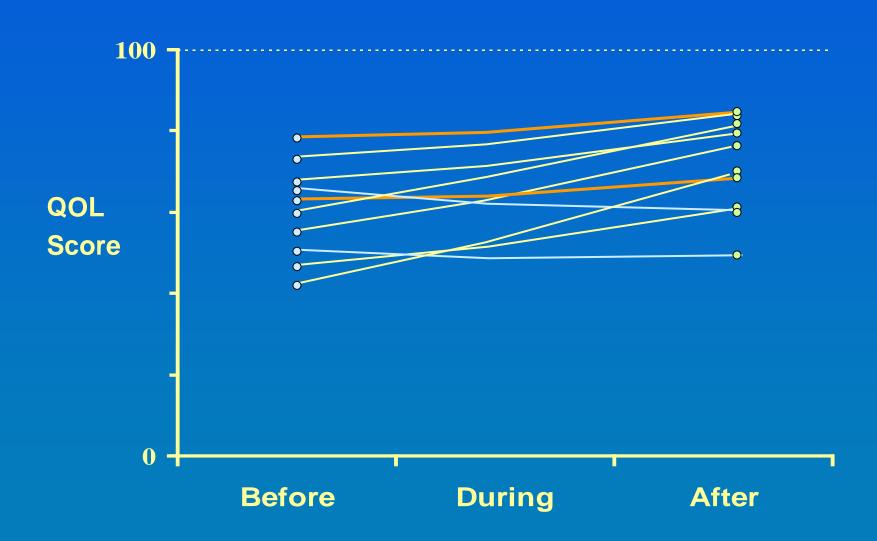
QLQ-C30 Change Scores (Baseline score to 5 weeks)

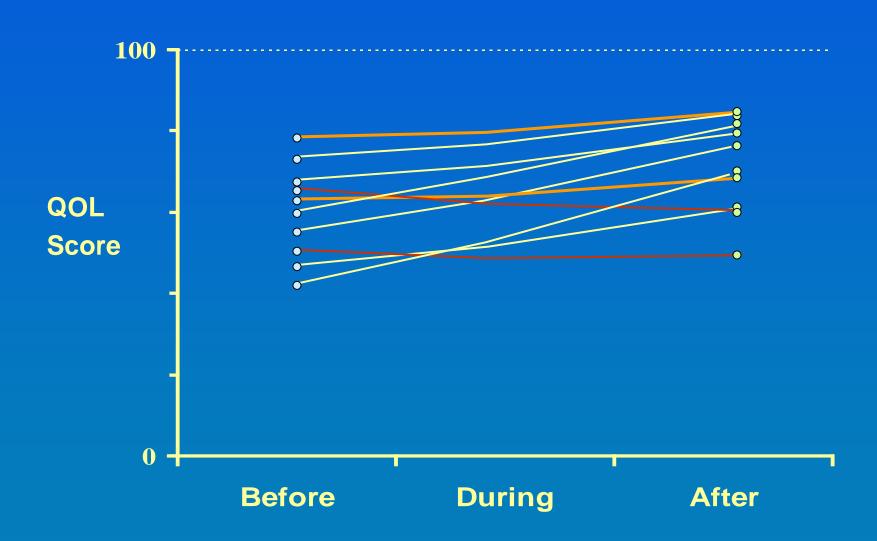


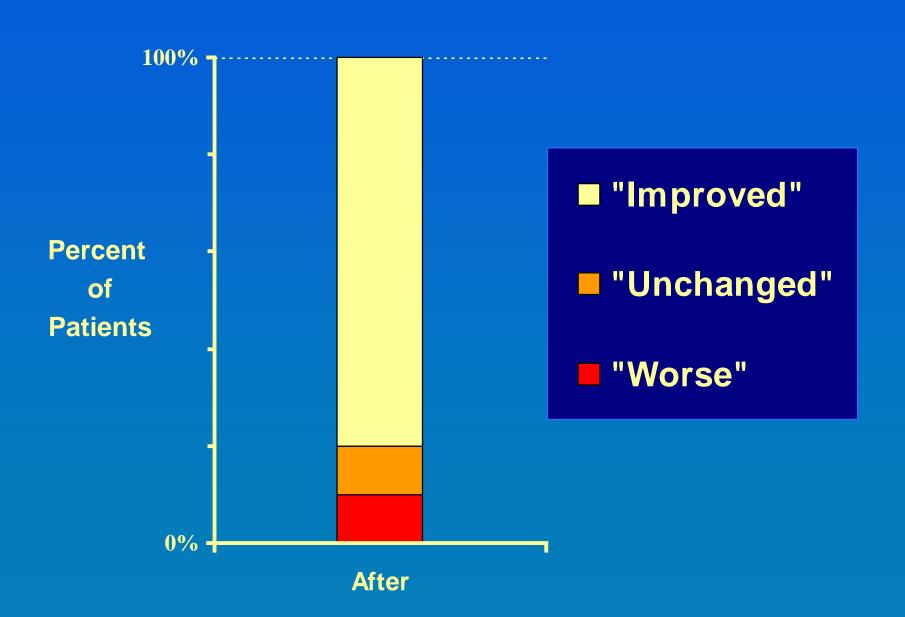


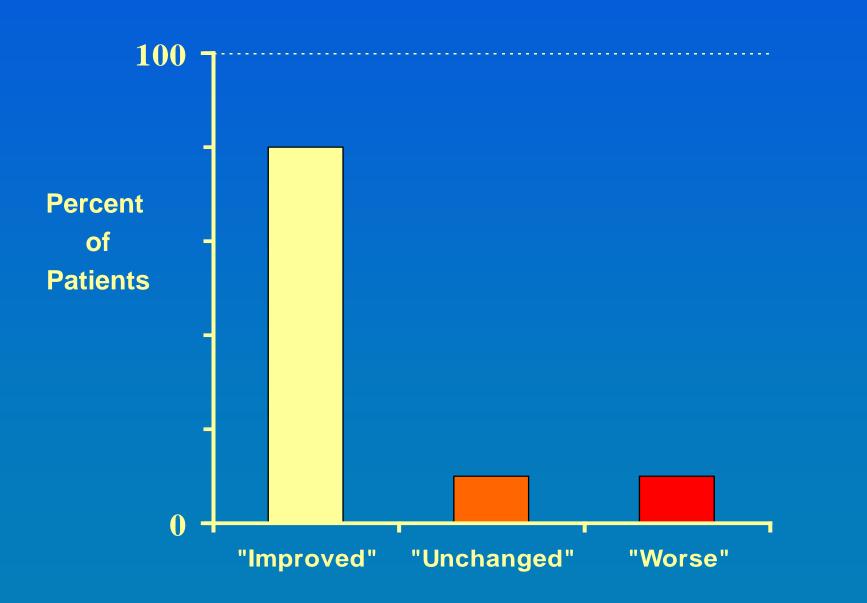












MEDICAL CARE Volume 41, Number 5, pp 582–592 ©2003 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Inc.

Point/Counterpoint

Interpretation of Changes in Health-related Quality of Life

The Remarkable Universality of Half a Standard Deviation

GEOFFREY R. NORMAN, PhD,* JEFF A. SLOAN, PhD,† AND KATHLEEN W. WYRWICH, PhD‡

BACKGROUND. A number of studies have computed the minimally important difference (MID) for health-related quality of life instruments.

OBJECTIVE. To determine whether there is consistency in the magnitude of MID estimates from different instruments.

Methods. We conducted a systematic review of the literature to identify studies that computed an MID and contained sufficient information to compute an effect size (ES). Thirty-eight studies fulfilled the criteria, resulting in 62 ESs.

RESULTS. For all but 6 studies, the MID estimates were close to one half a SD (mean = 0.495, SD = 0.155). There was no consistent relationship with factors such as disease-specific or generic instrument or the number of response options. Negative changes were not associated with larger ESs. Population-based estimation procedures and brief follow-up were associated with smaller ESs, and acute conditions with larger ESs. An explanation for this consistency is that research in psychology has shown that the limit of people's ability to discriminate over a wide range of tasks is approximately 1 part in 7, which is very close to half a SD.

CONCLUSION. In most circumstances, the threshold of discrimination for changes in health-related quality of life for chronic diseases appears to be approximately half a SD.

Key words: Quality of life; threshold; interpretation; MID; effect size. (Med Care 2003; 41:582-592)

Interpreting the Significance of Changes in Health-Related Quality-of-Life Scores

By David Osoba, George Rodrigues, James Myles, Benny Zee, and Joseph Pater

Purpose: To determine the significance to patients of changes in health-related quality-of-life (HLQ) scores assessed by the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Quality of Life Questionnaire (QLQ-C30).

Patients and Methods: A subjective significance questionnaire (SSQ), which asks patients about perceived changes in physical, emotional, and social functioning and in global quality of life (global QL) and the QLQ-C30 were completed by patients who received chemotherapy for either breast cancer or small-cell lung cancer (SCLC). In the SSQ, patients rated their perception of change since the last time they completed the QLQ-C30 using a 7-category scale that ranged from "much worse" through "no change" to "much better." For each category of change in the SSQ, the corresponding differences were calculated in QLQ-C30 mean scores and effect sizes were determined.

Results: For patients who indicated "no change" in the SSQ, the mean change in scores in the corresponding QLQ-C30 domains was not significantly different from 0. For patients who indicated "a little" change either for better or for worse, the mean change in scores was about 5 to 10; for "moderate" change, about 10 to 20; and for "very much" change, greater than 20. Effect sizes increased in concordance with increasing changes in SSQ ratings and QLQ-C30 scores.

Conclusion: The significance of changes in QLQ-C30 scores can be interpreted in terms of small, moderate, or large changes in quality of life as reported by patients in the SSQ. The magnitude of these changes also can be used to calculate the sample sizes required to detect a specified change in clinical trials.

J Clin Oncol 16:139-144. © 1998 by American Society of Clinical Oncology.

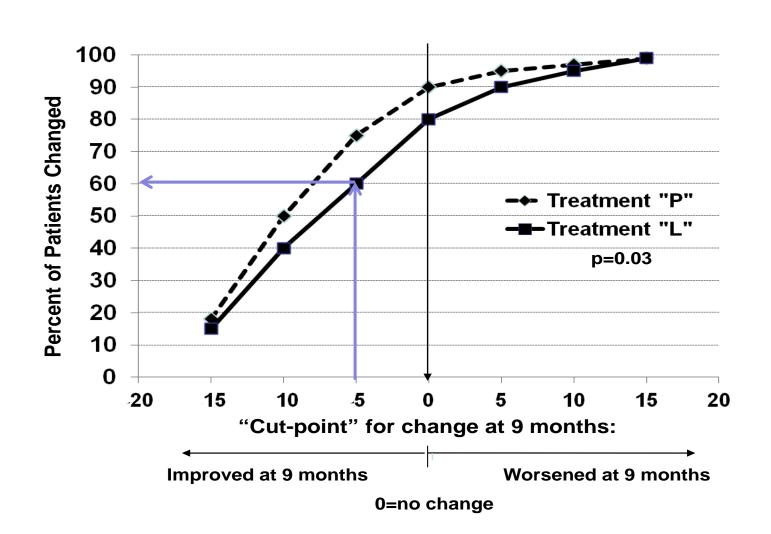
What "difference" is clinically significant?

E.g.: Osoba et al, JCO 1998

- Minimal change: 5-10 points
- Moderate change: 10-20 points
- Large change: >20 points

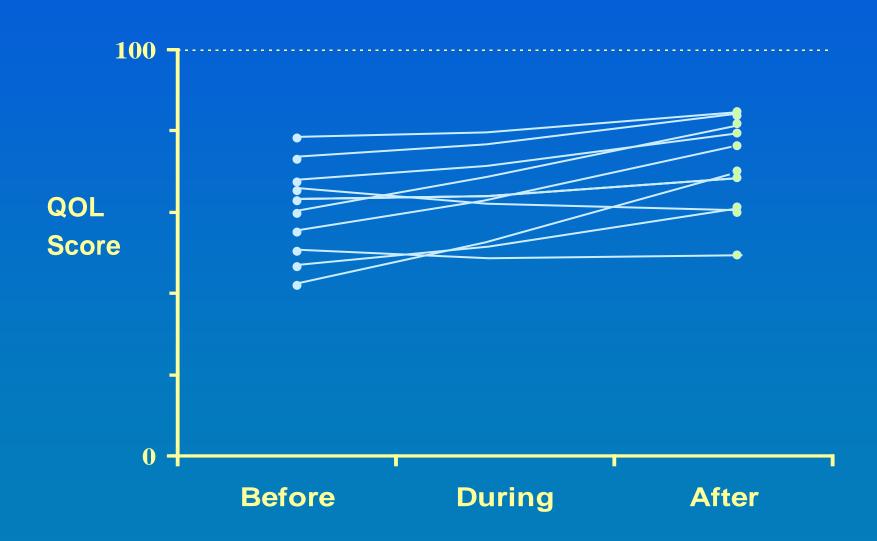
Cumulative Distribution Function

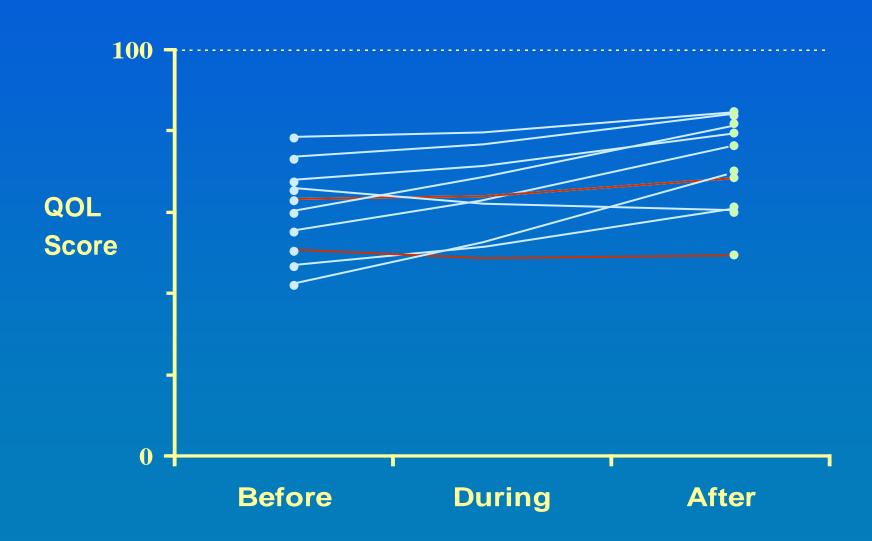
Physical Function:
Cumulative Percent of Patients Changed at 9 months

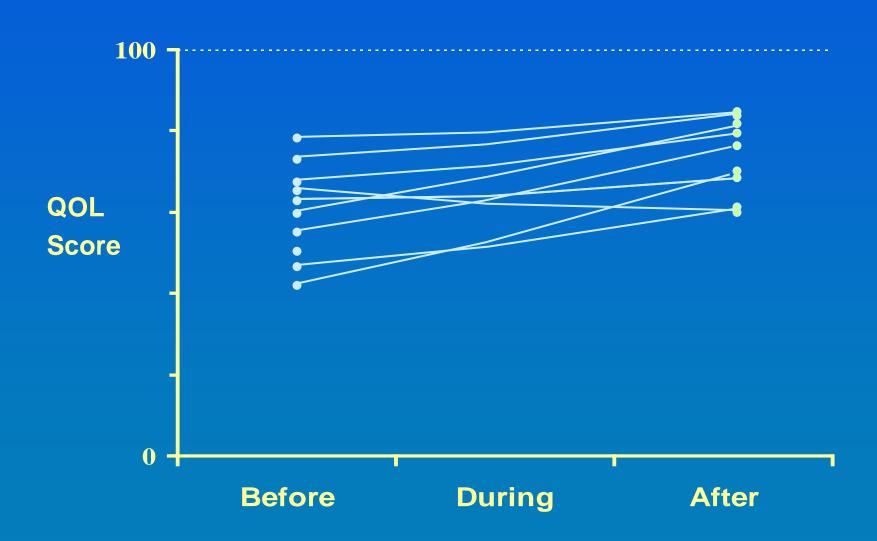


Some Concerns....

- The biggest problem with analyzing QOL information from clinical trials is missing data
 - are pts whose QOL data are missing different from pts supplying QOL data?
 - Or is QOL data missing because pts are sicker that those providing info?
- Analysis can try to account for missing data but it is best trying to prevent missing data







Expert Consensus Panel

- 1. What are the characteristics of the population of interest?
- 2. Is the QOL questionnaire relevant, reliable, valid, and responsive to change?
- 3. Are the timing and frequency of assessment adequate?
- 4. Is the study adequately powered?
- 5. How are multiple QOL outcomes addressed in the analyses?
- 6. How are multiple time points handled?
- 7. Can alternative explanations account for observed scores?
- 8. Are missing data handled adequately?
- 9. Is an observed survival difference accounted for?
- 10. Was response shift (change in patient's perspective of QOL) taken into account?
- 11. Is clinical significance addressed?

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EXPERT REVIEWS

Added value of health-related quality of life measurement in cancer clinical trials: the experience of the NCIC CTG

Expert Rev. Pharmacoeconomics Outcomes Res. 10(2), 119-128 (2010)

Heather-Jane Au[†], Jolie Ringash, Michael Brundage, Michael Palmer, Harriet Richardson and Ralph M Meyer; on behalf of the NCIC CTG Quality of Life Committee

*Author for correspondence

Health-related quality-of-life (HRQoL) data are often included in Phase III clinical trials. We evaluate and classify the value added to Phase III trials by HRQoL outcomes, through a review of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group clinical trials experience within various cancer patient populations. HRQoL may add value in a variety of ways, including the provision of data that may contrast with or may support the primary study outcome; or that assess a unique perspective or subgroup, not addressed by the primary outcome. Thus, HRQoL data may change the study's interpretation. Even in situations where HRQoL measurement does not alter the clinical interpretation of a trial, important methodologic advances can be made. A classification of the added value of HRQoL information is provided, which may assist in choosing trials for which measurement of HRQoL outcomes will be beneficial.



Critical appraisal is a systematic process used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of a research article in order to assess the usefulness and validity of research findings.







Minimising waste and maximising benefits.....

Capturing what matters

Designing a high quality study

Obtaining data and protecting patients

Ensuring that data are analysed and reported appropriately

Providing
high quality
evidence to
inform
patientcentred care.



CONSORT

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Reporting of Patient-Reported Outcomes in Randomized Trials

The CONSORT PRO Extension

Melanie Calvert, PhD	
Jane Blazeby, MD	
Douglas G. Altman, DSc	
Dennis A. Revicki, PhD	
David Moher, PhD	
Michael D. Brundage, MD	
for the CONSORT PRO Group	

The CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) Statement aims to improve the reporting of randomized controlled trials (RCTs); however, it lacks guidance on the reporting of patient-reported outcomes (PROs), which are often inadequately reported in trials, thus limiting the value of these data. In this article, we describe the development of the CONSORT PRO extension based on the methodological framework for guideline development proposed by the Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of Health Research (EQUATOR) Network. Five CONSORT PRO checklist items are recom-

Consort PRO Extension

	-	
2a	Scientific background and explanation of rationale	
2b	Specific objectives or hypotheses	P2b: The PRO hypothesis should be stated and relevant domains identified, if applicable
6a	Completely defined prespecified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed	P6a: Evidence of PRO instrument validity and reliability should be provided or cited if available including the person completing the PRO and methods of data collection (paper, telephone, electronic, other)
12a	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	P12a: Statistical approaches for dealing with missing data are explicitly stated
20	Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses	P20/21 PRO-specific limitations and implications for generalizability and clinical practice
21	Generalizability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings	
22	Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence	PRO data should be interpreted in relation to clinical outcomes including survival data, where relevant

SYSAQOL

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What is SISAQOL

- Setting International Standards in Analyzing Patient-Reported Outcomes and Quality of Life Endpoints Data
- International
- Multi-stakeholder
- Shared interest in improving the standards of PRO analysis in cancer RCTs in order to improve patient outcomes

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6083 abstracts screened

Review 1

100 articles

Framework was developed to classify factors associated with missing PRO data

5 components and 46 categories, each with sub-categories

Review 2

117 articles

Strategies were organized to reduce instance and impact of missing PRO data

2000+ strategies for study design, implementation, reporting

184 unique manuscripts

Informed the development of an Integrative Review. Strategies for study design and implementation were mapped to the Classification Framework.

Clinical Trials 2018;15(1):95-106

Article

CLINICAL

A systematic review and development of a classification framework for factors associated with missing patient-reported outcome data

2018, Vol. 15(1) 95-106 © The Author(s) 2017 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/1740774517741113 journals.sagepub.com/home/ctj

(\$)SAGE

Michael J Palmer^{1,2}, Rebecca Mercieca-Bebber^{3,4,5}, Madeleine King^{3,4}, Melanie Calvert^{5,6}, Harriet Richardson^{1,2} and Michael Brundage^{1,2}

http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/6/6/e010938

Open Access

Research

BMJ Open Design, implementation and reporting strategies to reduce the instance and impact of missing patient-reported outcome (PRO) data: a systematic review

Rebecca Mercieca-Bebber,^{1,2} Michael J Palmer,³ Michael Brundage,³ Melanie Calvert,⁴ Martin R Stockler,^{1,5} Madeleine T King^{1,2}

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Systematic evaluation of Patient-Reported Outcome protocol content and reporting in cancer trials - EPiC

Dr Derek Kyte, PhD

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NCRI Psychosocial Oncology & Survivorship Clinical Studies Group

On behalf of the EPiC study group: Derek Kyte, Ameeta Retzer, Khaled Ahmed, Thomas Keeley, Jo Armes, Julia M Brown, Lynn Calman, Anna Gavin, Adam W Glaser, Diana M Greenfield, Anne Lanceley, Rachel M Taylor, Galina Velikova, Michael Brundage, Fabio Efficace, Rebecca Mercieca-Bebber, Madeleine T King, Grace Turner, Melanie Calvert.





The University Of Sheffield.

























Objective: review the rigour with which PROs are incorporated into cancer clinical trials



METHODS

• Systematic evaluation of 1,141 cancer trials on the NIHR Portfolio 2001-2014. Excluding non-randomised trials or those that terminated early.

We reviewed:

1. PRO protocol content

3. Availability of PRO trial results

CHECKLISTS	ECKLISTS				
GENERAL	PRO-SPECIFIC				
SPIRIT 2013	PRO CHECKLIST				
CONSORT 2010	CONSORT PRO				

Quality of PRO reporting



EPiC Study Results - PRO protocol content

- Trial protocols (n=101) included a mean of 32/51 (range 11–43, SD 6) SPIRIT 2013 recommendations
- 10/33 (range 2–19, SD 4) PRO protocol checklist items.

SPIRIT 2013		66%	
PRO	32%		







EPiC Study Results - PRO protocol content

Recommended Protocol Item	Protocol Coverage
Detail regarding the rationale for PRO collection	missing in 68%
Description of PRO-specific objectives	missing in 83%
Justification of the choice of PRO instrument with regard to the study hypothesis	missing in 66%
Questionnaire measurement properties	missing in 49%
Information regarding PRO data collection plans	missing in 41%
Methods to reduce avoidable missing PRO data	missing in 61%







SPIRIT

SYSAQOL

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Top Ten Examples



10. HRQL results of interest for descriptive purposes

- Head and neck cancer patients
- Women five-years post breast cancer treatment



9. HRQL as a prognostic factor

- Repeatedly illustrated in multiple study contexts
- Stratification / statistical adjustment



8. HRQL in Phase I/II trials

- Detect toxicity or response
- Estimate effect size for phase III
- "Pick the winner"



7. HRQL results that support primary outcome

 Palliative chest radiotherapy for locally advanced lung cancer

Improvement in nausea and vomiting with effective anti-emetics



6. HRQL results that "conflict" with primary outcome

- Pre-operative vs. post-operative radiotherapy for limb soft-tissue sarcoma
- Wound healing post-op favoured
- Long-term functioning pre-op favoured



5. Quantification of treatment-related toxicity

 Adjuvant chemotherapy for earlystage lung cancer

- Significant survival difference
- Some impact of treatment on HRQL
- Recovery of HRQL after treatment



- 4. Demonstration of reduced treatment-related toxicity
 - Palliative chemotherapy for advanced-stage lung cancer

- No significant difference in global HRQL
- Differences seen in treatment tolerance



3. Measurement of response to treatment

 Mitoxantrone and prednisone for patients with metastatic prostate cancer

- No significant survival difference
- improved symptoms and HRQL



2. Industry / FDA

Claims for new drug labelling



2. Industry / FDA

Guidance for Industry

Patient-Reported Outcome Measures: Use in Medical Product Development to Support Labeling Claims

DRAFT GUIDANCE

This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.

Comments and suggestions regarding this draft document should be submitted within 60 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. All comments should be identified with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

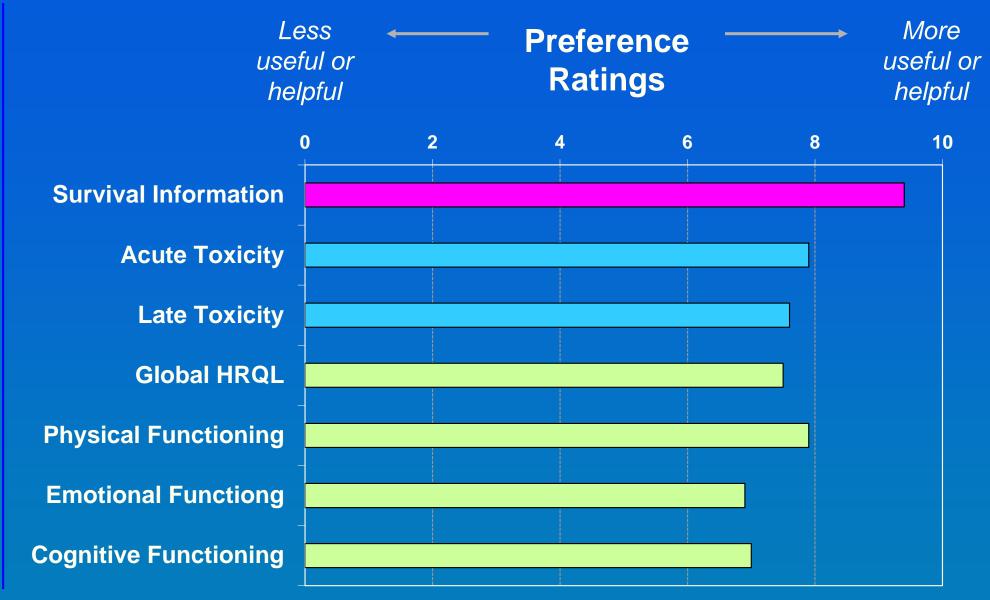
For questions regarding this draft document contact Laurie Burke (CDER) 301-796-0700, Toni Stifano (CBER) 301-827-6190, or Sahar Dawisha (CDRH) 301-594-3090.



1. Patient Preferences

- Medical decision making
- Other elements of patient education







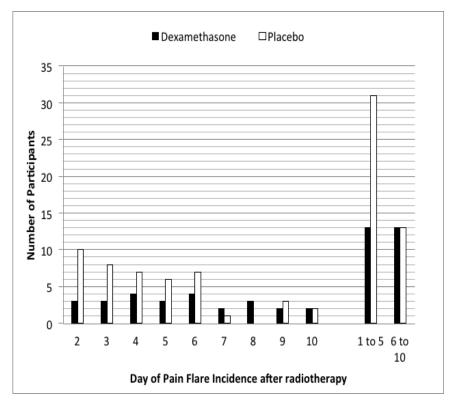
- CE.6 Temozolomide and Short-Course Radiation in the Treatment of Glioblastoma Multiforme in Elderly Patients J Clin Oncol
- MA.17R Extending Aromatase-Inhibitor Adjuvant Therapy to 10 Years.
 N Engl J Med
- MA.20 Regional Nodal Irradiation in Early-Stage Breast Cancer. N Engl J Med
- HD.6 ABVD Alone versus Radiation-Based Therapy in Limited-Stage Hodgkin's Lymphoma N Engl J Med
- SC.23 Dexamethasone in the prophylaxis of radiation-induced pain flare after palliative radiotherapy for bone metastases Lancet Oncol
- PR.7 Intermittent Androgen Suppression for Rising PSA Level after Radiotherapy. N Engl J Med

MA.17R - Extending Aromatase-Inhibitor Adjuvant Therapy to 10 Years.
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 SC.23 - Dexamethasone in the prophylaxis of radiation-induced pain flare after palliative radiotherapy for bone metastases Lancet Oncol





 PR.7 - Intermittent Androgen Suppression for Rising PSA Level after Radiotherapy. N Engl J Med



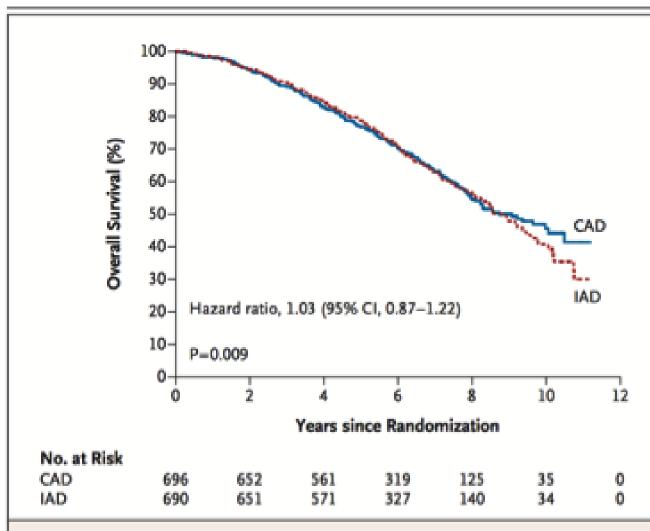


Figure 1. Overall Survival in the Intention-to-Treat Population.

Key Quality of Life (QOL) Findings:

Intermittent therapy resulted in significantly better QOL regarding:

- Hot flashes (p<0.001),
- Urinary symptoms (p<0.006)
- Desire for sexual activity (p<0.001)
 Trend toward improved physical

functioning and less fatigue (p=0.07).

Time for Questions....Over to you!

