

UICC Abstract

Making best use of existing clinical trials data- a global project on QOL: PROBE on behalf of the EORTC, the NCIC-CTG, MRC, the AGO.

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Background:

This PROBE (Patient Reported Outcomes and Behavioral Evidence) project is part of the Pfizer Foundation Global Health Partnerships Initiative to accelerate the pace of progress in the fight against cancer. The aims are to obtain and collate data from closed international oncology clinical trials from across the globe in order to undertake a robust series of psychosocial and Quality of Life (QOL) analysis. This research program improves understanding of the QOL and psychosocial needs of cancer patients without undertaking additional costly clinical trials.

Methods:

We contacted over 34 EORTC investigators to request permission to use data from over 30 closed, clinical trials to undertake QOL analysis. This was also done with the NCIC-CTG and MRC and AGO; in 2 years we were able to establish a repository database of over 20,000 patients who completed the EORTC QLQ-C30 and associated modules and also clinical and survival data. We then undertook a series of complex, planned analysis to better understand patients' psychosocial needs on a global basis.

Results:

Over 16 analyses were completed, with 16 abstracts presented at major conferences (ASCO, ESMO) leading to several awards for best research. Five papers are in progress and all have taken place in less than 24 months from the project start. These are all in high impact factor oncology journals and answer key questions relating to clinical significance, cluster analysis, cost effectiveness, age and cancer relationships, etc. These results were recently presented at an international symposium in Brussels.

Conclusion:

Using closed international clinical trials holds great promise to understand the patient's unmet psychosocial and QOL needs. This research program shows that expensive prospective and protracted studies are not always needed and techniques such as developing large scale global collaborations such as this PROBE project led by the EORTC proved to be an invaluable way to use existing data and benefits both patient and

society via improving clinical care and understanding cancer. Such a repository will prove useful for many years to come.

“This work is part of the Pfizer Foundation Global Health Partnerships Initiative to accelerate the pace of progress in the fight against cancer.”