

Psychological, physical, and social situation of patients with Hodgkin lymphoma undergoing radical chemoradiotherapy

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: To assess the physical and psychosocial situation and needs of Polish patients with Hodgkin lymphoma (HL), who had undergone radical chemoradiotherapy.

Materials and methods: 50 Hodgkin lymphoma patients were asked to complete an institution-developed questionnaire concerning their physical, emotional and social well-being, as well as their perceptions regarding the medical care they had received.

Results: The physical and psychosocial quality of life of patients with HL was diminished by the disease and its treatment. The most frequently reported side effects of both chemo- and radiotherapy were fatigue and loss of taste. The observed symptoms were slight or moderate. Although 36% of participants reported feelings of depression and 52% - were concerned about their future functioning in society, more than half of patients reported that were happy (60%). 20% of

respondents were unable to work at all, but more than half had some difficulties with their employment. 20-40% of the patients complained about having received insufficient dietary instructions and lack of information about the late adverse effects of treatment. Although the majority of respondents assessed the quality of medical care as very high emotional problems preferred to share with relatives (90%).

Conclusions: Although the physical and psychosocial situation of HL patients may be affected by the disease and its treatment, for the majority of patients, these impediments did not cause serious deterioration in functioning. Medical care was positively assessed by the HL patients, but more emotional and informative support is needed to decrease patients' anxiety regarding future functioning in society.

Key words: Hodgkin lymphoma, chemoradiotherapy, quality of life, medical care
