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Literary Review



March 2015 to May 2015

Title	Publication	Date	Overview
Patients concerns inventory highlights perceived needs and concerns in head and neck cancer survivors and its impact on health-related quality of life	British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vol. 53, No. 4, pages 371-379.	April	Data collected from the head and neck cancer Patients' Concerns Inventory (HNC-PCI) has been split into domains (A=Physical; B=Psychological/emotional; C=Social care; D=Treatment related; and E=Other), as part of a study hoping to aid in the planning of supportive care. The evidence showed that those treated by radiotherapy were more likely to have concerns in domains A (which covered factors like sore mouth, eating and swallowing), and C (which covered factors like appearance, fear and self-esteem).
Information about oral cancer on the internet: our patients cannot understand it	British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vol. 53, No. 4, pages 393-395.	April	This study assesses the readability of online information on oral cancer. It is suggested that 54% of head and neck cancer patients rely on the internet for information, yet these sites vary in accuracy, were found to be of a low standard and require high-level reading skills.
Prospective study of the influence of psychological and medical factors on quality of life and severity of symptoms among patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma	British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vol. 53, No. 4, pages 364-370.	April	Article that examines the impact oral squamous cell carcinoma has on the quality of life (QoL) of patients. Results from a study identified that impaired QoL and increased severity of symptoms were associated with a depressive style of coping, size of tumour, educational attainment, and living arrangements. The study calls for these patients to be identified during treatment as they could benefit from psycho-oncological counselling.
HPV vaccine might be a cost-effective barrier to oropharyngeal cancer in males	Nursing Standard, Vol. 29, No. 35, page 14.	29 April	A study in Canada suggests that vaccinating 12-year-old boys against the human papilloma virus (HPV) could be a cost-effective way of preventing oropharyngeal cancer. The analysis took account of vaccine cost and effectiveness, costs of cancer treatment and survival of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer.

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Selection of Optimal Tobacco Cessation Medication Treatment in Patients with Cancer	Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, Vol. 19, No. 2, pages 170-176.	April	Article presents the screening process developed by the Tobacco Treatment Programme (TTP) as a viable model to use when selecting optimal tobacco cessation medication for patients with cancer. It summarises the precautions of using nicotine replacement therapies for patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy.
40-year trends in an index of survival for all cancers combined and survival adjusted for age and sex for each cancer in England and Wales, 1971-2011: a population based study	The Lancet Vol. 385, No. 9974, pages 1206-1218.	28 March - 3 April	Researchers analysed data for 7.2 million adults diagnosed with a primary cancer during 1971-2011. The gap in survival rates between different cancers failed to close with predicted ten-year survival for patients diagnosed 2010-11 ranging from 1.1% for pancreatic cancer to 98.2% for testicular cancer (12.4% for cancer of the oesophagus). The study showed the overall pattern of no improvement in long-term survival is common in cancer of the oesophagus.
Woody hardness - a novel classification for the radiotherapy-treated neck	British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vol. 53, No. 4, pages 380-383.	April	The authors propose a simple ABC classification to record neck fibrosis that can occur following radiotherapy. They suggest the condition, widely termed as 'woody neck' by surgeons and oncologists, could be classified according to the hardness of different woods to enable a suitable description to be made of severity.
Downregulation of miRNA-424: a sign of field cancerisation in clinically normal tongue adjacent to squamous cell carcinoma	British Journal of Cancer, Vol. 112, No. 11, pages 1760-1765.	26 May	Article shares results of an investigation into the role of microRNA-424 in tongue squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Data supports the use of miRNA-424 as a marker for tumour presence in tongue, either as an indicator of remaining or relapsing tumour in patients with tongue SCC or as a marker of suspect tumour growth in patients with symptoms but still no clinical signs of a tongue tumour.
Learning from Disaster: Patient Safety and the Role of Oncology Nurses	Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, Vol. 19, No. 2, pages 155-156.	April	Article which examines the guidelines and protocols in place to prevent patient safety errors when administering chemotherapy.

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The impact of comprehensive geriatric assessment interventions on tolerance to chemotherapy in older people	British Journal of Cancer, Vol. 112, No. 9, pages 1435-1444.	28 April	A comparative study of patients aged 70+ years found that geriatrician-led comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) was associated with better outcomes for older people undergoing chemotherapy. Patients who received CGA were found to be more likely to complete their treatment as planned and required fewer treatment modifications.
Call from a nurse quells patients' cancer anxiety	Nursing Standard, Vol. 29, No 37, page 8.	13 May	An evaluation of a nurse-led telephone service shows that it has helped reduce anxiety in cancer patients undergoing treatment. Between 89% and 90% of patients rated the service 'good' or 'excellent', with between 93% and 95% feeling 'supported knowing that they would receive regular callbacks from a nurse'.
Evidence is insufficient to recommend e-cigarettes for quitting, US group says	The BMJ, Vol. 350, No. 8008, page 4.	16 May	A US task force has concluded that there is not enough data on the effectiveness of e-cigarettes to determine whether the devices can help smokers quit. Due to a lack of randomised controlled trials, they say adults needing help to quit smoking should be directed to approved pharmacology (such as nicotine replacement therapy, bupropion, and varenicline) or to behavioural interventions.
NICE round up: Attention to physical inactivity, smoking and excessive drinking raised	Nursing in Practice, Vol. 84, online article.	19 May	Article gives an overview of three new quality standards issued by NICE to health professionals to help reduce the burden that excessive drinking, smoking and physical inactivity puts on the NHS.

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References: 1. Innocenti M et al. *J Pain Symptom Manage* 2002; 24(5): 456-457. 2. McLean M. Poster presented at the British Association of Head and Neck Oncology Nurses National Study Day on Sharing Good Practice in Head and Neck Cancer Nursing, 12 June 2009. 3. Gibson et al. Presented at SIOP 2010. 4. Kantardžić N et al., *The Internet Journal of Oncology* 2009; 6(2). 5. Data on file: Patient online feedback. Correct as of January 2014.

 **ALLIANCE**

Medical device incidents should be reported. Reporting information can be found at www.mhra.gov.uk
Adverse events should also be reported to Pharmacovigilance at Alliance Pharmaceuticals
(tel: 01249 466 966, email: pharmacovigilance@alliancepharma.co.uk)

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AL/1687/03.14/0.1. Date of preparation: July 2014