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Association between Tumor Response and Change in EQ5D-3L Quality of Life among Cancer Patients

Stephen Joseph P Garcia¹, Charles Vincent O Uy¹, Corazon A Ngelangel¹ and Francisco Delos Reyes²

¹Section of Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine

Introduction: Quality of Life (QoL) is a corner stone in choosing the best approach to treatment among cancer patients. The primary aim is to provide excellent tumor response and to maintain the most acceptable quality of life. The relationship of QoL to tumor response has not yet been well discussed. This study determines the association between the change in the QoL from baseline to one (1) year follow-up and tumor response among patients enrolled in the ASEAN Cost in Oncology (ACTION) study.

Methods: Pooled data from the ACTION study was reviewed. Association between demographics, cancer type, and tumor response was analyzed.

Results: 412 out of the 742 qualified for analysis. 174 (42.2%) breast cancer cases, 90 (21.8%) colorectal cancer, 51 (12.4%) for other malignant neoplasms and 41 (10%) head and neck were most common. 126 (30.6%) were metastatic. Correlating tumor response and demographic data: female sex, occupation and being household head tended to have better tumor response. Cancer type was also associated with good tumor response (p=.000) as well as metastatic disease (p=.000). Improvement in QoL was significantly associated with tumor response. Complete or partial response was associated with better QOL (p=.000) while progressive disease related to worse situations. The general pattern seen above was reflected in female breast cancer cases, colon and rectal cancer, and other malignant neoplasms. No correlation was seen for head and neck cancer cases.

Conclusion: Improvement in QoL was significantly associated with tumor response. Complete or partial response tended to relate with better QOL while progressive disease related to worse situations. This trend was similar for breast cancer, colorectal cancer and other malignancies. No association can be drawn for head and neck cancer.

Biography

Stephen Joseph P. Garcia, MD is a Medical Oncology fellow-in-training at the Philippine General Hospital. He has numerous experiences in multi-disciplinary cancer therapy. Currently he is involved in several clinical trials employing new therapeutic approach in cancer management.

stephengarciamd@gmail.com

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²School of Statistics