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Validation and translation of EORTC, CIPN20 module to evaluate chemotherapy induced neuropathy in patients treated with chemotoxic medicines

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Introduction: Chemotherapy is a main adjuvant treatment in treatment of cancer and majority of chemo toxic drugs are known to produce toxicity. Chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) is a potentially severe and a dose limiting side effect. The incidence of peripheral neuropathy varies depending upon the type of chemotherapy and the cumulative dose. Unfortunately it is difficult to accurately estimate and quantify CIPN. CIPN is often documented using the NCI Common Toxicity Criteria; however this instrument is neither sensitive nor sufficiently discriminating in the evaluation of CIPN. There is growing interest in the incorporation of patient reported outcome measures in cancer clinical trials and in the routine care of patients. A number of different patient reported scales have been used to evaluate CIPN. The current version of EORTC QLQ – CIPN 20 module has been validated and tested in several different languages. It has been suggested that QLQ-CIPN20 module may be superior to NCI-CTC in detecting sensory impairment. In order to make use of this module in Indian population this study was undertaken

Method: Standard EORTC translation manual procedures were adopted for translation, the module was translated from the original English version into two vernacular languages (Hindi and Marathi) using a “forward-backward” translation procedure and after approval of EORTC translation team the interim version was pilot tested on patients who are treated with chemo toxic drugs and fulfill the eligibility criteria for the study. Informed consent forms were taken from all the patients. The results were documented and approved changes were done in the translated version.

Conclusion: Quality of life is extremely important outcome measure in cancer related treatment with systemic therapies. Incidence of peripheral neuropathy was not assessed objectively in previous clinical trials and scoring methods were not effective. EORTC, QLQ is most commonly used QOL questionnaire and is well accepted by patients and reported to cover majority of symptoms following CIPN which are not reported during clinical testing.

Biography

Shruti M Velaskar has passed her degree in Occupational Therapy from Seth G. S. Medical College and K. E. M. Hospital, Mumbai University. She is working since more than 15 years in this field and is attached to Tata Memorial Hospital since last 12 years as a Senior Occupational Therapist and is actively involved in cancer related clinical research and publication. She was awarded Fellowship for attending 2nd EORTC, QOL symposium held at Brussels, Belgium. She was awarded with “Best Scientific Paper” “Kamala V Nimbkar trophy for research and publication during 45th AIOTA Conference.

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