

Cancer Control Joint Action

Public Health, Pain and Cancer



CanCon
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Tit Albreht | Brussels | 24 May 2016



GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF JOINT ACTION CANCON (CANCER CONTROL)

Aims to contribute to improvements in overall cancer control through:

- quality based cancer screening programmes,
- better integration of cancer care,
- community-based cancer care approaches,
- **providing concerted efforts in all aspects of survivorship, including palliative care**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- European Guide on Quality Improvement in Comprehensive Cancer Control
- Enhanced co-operation between the Member States on cancer policy and cancer care issues
- New approaches to integration of care at the regional level
- Added focus to primary and community care of cancer patients
- Survivorship placed firmly as one of the key aspects of overall cancer management
- Guidance through the challenges and novelties in cancer screening

SURVIVORSHIP – PAIN - REHABILITATION

- Objective of firmly setting the scene for the concept of survivorship
- A changing focus in cancer care:

SURVIVAL -> SURVIVORSHIP -> QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELFARE

- Changing the entire society's outlook on cancer:

SURVIVAL -> REHABILITATION -> FULL REINTEGRATION INTO PRE-MORBID LIFE

PAIN AND CANCER IN CANCON

- We focus on these issues in WP 8, which is dealing with survivorship
- Long discussions concerning the definition of survivorship
- General agreement has been reached to include:
 - Cured patients in long or permanent remission
 - Patients in life-prolonging treatments
 - Patients requiring any type of palliative and end-of-life care
- Pain is an independent subtopic in discussing survivorship under this broadest definition

PAIN AND CANCER IN CANCON 2

- Pain in cancer can occur for a number of reasons but it has to be dealt with regardless of the cause:
 - The disease itself
 - Treatment – surgical, radiotherapy or medical
 - Late effects of treatment
 - Relapse
 - Disseminated disease
 - Terminal disease

MAPPING OF CANCER CARE AND PATHWAYS

- For the reasons of complexity and comprehensiveness of cancer care, it is necessary to do proper **mapping of cancer care** and develop adequate **cancer patient pathways**
- This is necessary also in order to draw attention to **all the needs** of cancer patients, which cannot be limited only to immediate diagnosis and treatment
- **National Cancer Plans/Strategies** are also one of the important instruments in trying to organise and structure cancer care
- Such a structure can provide the **framework** allowing the proper planning of the necessary **resources (human, financial, infrastructural)**

MAPPING OF CANCER CARE AND PATHWAYS 2

- Cancer is a **unique chronic disease** also because one can **get cured** of it and not require any further therapy
- Although cancer care is providing more chances for a cure, not all cancer patients will be cured
- Hence it is necessary to provide cancer patients with the **whole spectrum of services**

PAIN AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

- Pain is certainly a public health problem
- It needs to be properly assessed in terms of its:
 - Epidemiology
 - Magnitude with respect to chronicity, duration, implication
 - Management – clinical and societal
 - Cost and economic impact
 - Quality of Life impact

PAIN AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM 2

- From the patient perspective the following are crucial:
 - Comprehensive and professional management of pain
 - Avoiding negative societal impact of inappropriate pain management – e.g. disability, absenteeism, early retirement
 - Quality of Life in all of its dimensions
- From the societal perspective:
 - Economic impact of pain – from treatment costs to loss of productivity
 - Fair and equitable treatment of all patients with pain, i.e. understanding their problems and potential limitations

FINAL CONFERENCE OF CANCON

The final conference of the CanCon project will
take place in Malta, 14-15 February 2017.

SIP is warmly invited!

Thank You