

**The American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting.
Philadelphia, USA.1,996,**

Information in new medical-oncologic patients: quality and associated factors

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Abstract

The first objective of this study is to determine the relationship between the correct information related to the diagnosis and prognosis and the information that the patients know about them.

Three questions were asked to the patients: 1. What kind of disease do you have? 2. Who told you the diagnosis? 3. Where did they give to you the information? 4. Did you receive any information about the illness' prognosis? We have analyzed the presence of associated factors to a wrong information in 150 new Spanish medical oncology patients referred from clinical and surgical departments. The quality of information has been defined as the relationship between the patients' information about their diagnosis and prognosis and the correct information about them, being the incorrect and unspecific information the wrong information, there were 50.7% of men, with a range of 23 to 82 years old; 102 (68%) patients had a wrong information about their diagnosis and 133 (88.7%) about their prognosis. Logistic regression analysis showed that older patients (Odds Ratio=1.07; 95% Confidence Interval=1.02-1.11) and patients with ovarian cancer(odds Ratio=7.08; 95% Confidence Interval=1.17-42.71) were more likely to have a wrong information, then the sociodemographic characteristics of the patients and the type of cancer affect the information given to the patients by the physicians.

These results indicate that the patients referred to the Medical Oncology Service have an incomplete information about their diagnosis and prognosis.

This work was supported by FIS (95/5161).

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