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A Pilot Study to Investigate Concerns in Patients Undergoing Neck Dissection Surgery

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Introduction

- Oropharynx cancer is increasing in Canada
- Patients have a wide array of concerns
- Need to identify importance of these concerns at different phases of treatment

Objectives

- Identify importance of patient-reported concerns across 3 time points during treatment: Pre-surgery, Discharge and 1-month Post-surgery
- Determine cross-sectional validity of Patients Concerns Inventory-Level of Importance questionnaire

Methods

- Prospective cohort study, March to August 2013 at London Health Science Centre (Victoria Campus), London, CANADA
- *Inclusion criteria*
 - Adult patients with head and neck cancer
 - Scheduled for neck dissection surgery
- *Exclusion criteria*
 - Patients with language and comprehension barriers

- Outcome Measures

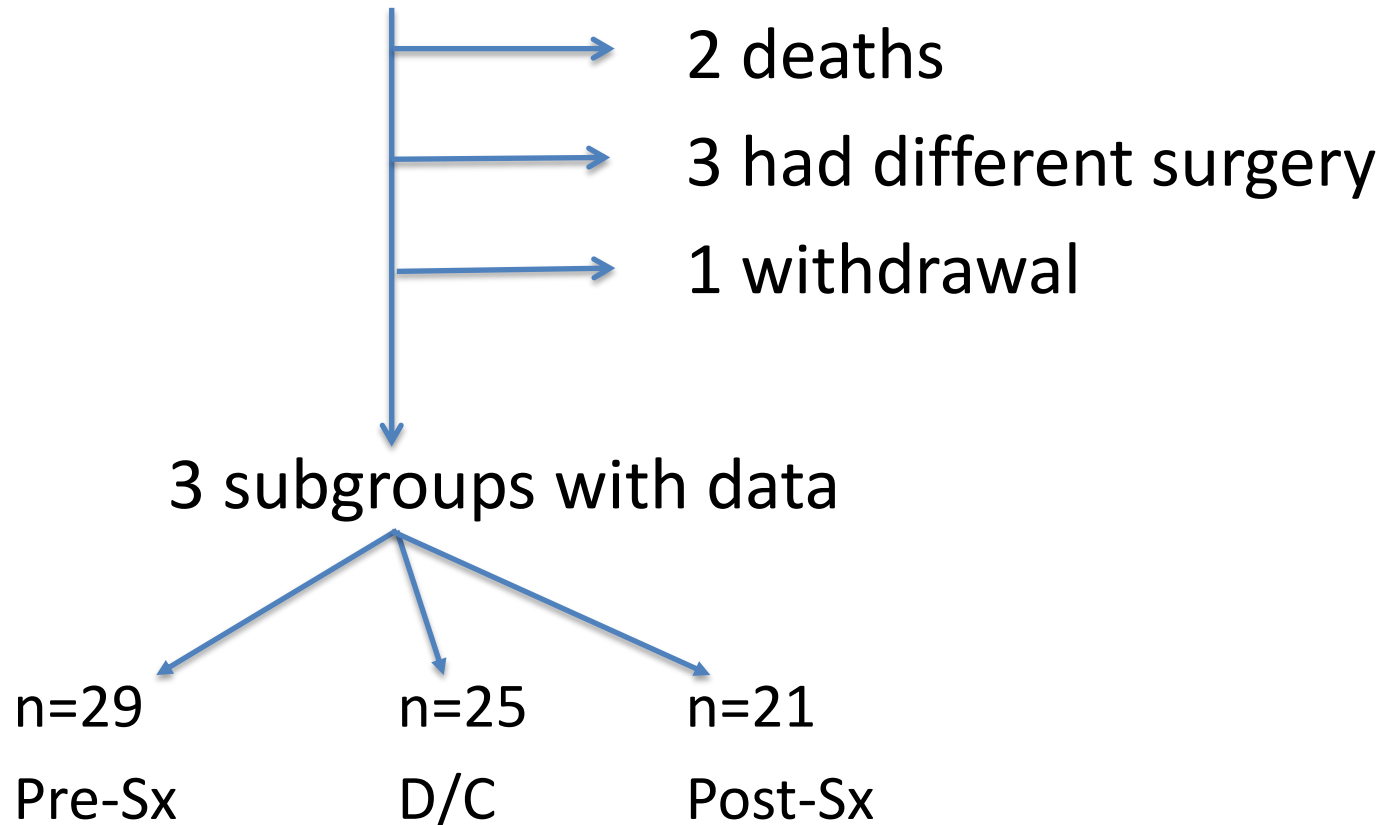
- Patient Concerns Inventory-Level of Importance (PCI-LOI)
- University of Washington-Quality of Life Scale (UWQOL)
- Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (SPADI)
- Neck Dissection Impairment Index (NDII)

Pre-surgical Characteristics

Participants	n=40
Age, years (min-max)	62.1 (32-90)
Gender, n(%)	
• Male	23 (57.5)
Surgery, n(%)	
• Radical	7 (18.4)
• Modified radical	24 (63.2)
• Selective	6 (15.8)

Enrollment

40 enrolled at pre-sx



Analysis

- Objective 1
 - median scores of PCI-LOI at Pre-surgical, Discharge and 1-month Post-surgery
- Objective 2
 - Kruskal-Wallis for determining patient-reported outcomes across all 3 time points
- Objective 3
 - Spearman correlation coefficient for cross-sectional convergent validity of PCI

Results

Top 3 Concerns on PCI-LOI

CONCERNS			
	Pre-surgery	Discharge	1-month
RANK			
1	Anxiety	Appearance	Appearance
2	Appearance+Activity	Pain+Speech	Shoulder
3	Mood+Swallowing	Shoulder+Activity	Swallowing+Activity

Relation between PCI-LOI and UWQOL

	UWQOL		
	Pre-surgery	Discharge	1-month
PCI-LOI			
Physical Function	-0.20	-0.55*	-0.42
Social Care	-0.10	-0.43*	-0.42
Psychological, Emotional, Spiritual	-0.11	-0.45*	-0.45*
Total Score	-0.15	-0.48*	-0.43*

* $p < .05$

Correlation between PCI-LOI and SPADI

SPADI			
PCI-LOI			
	Pre-surgery	Discharge	1-month
<i>Physical Function</i>	0.27	0.40*	0.62*
<i>Total Score</i>	0.31	0.45*	0.57*

Discussion

- ❑ Top Patient Concerns for neck dissection surgery:
 - “Shoulder” concerns arise at Discharge

- ❑ Validity of PCI-LOI supported at Post-SX timepoint

Future Research

- Identify changes in patient concerns at pre-surgery, 1-month, 3-month and 6-month post surgery
- Further evaluation of PCI-LOI as a practical tool

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