

Development of health-related quality of life and symptoms in patients with advanced cancer in Greenland

A prospective national cohort study assessed the development of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and symptoms in adult patients undergoing treatment and care for advanced cancer in Greenland. HRQoL was examined by EORTC QLQ-C30 version 3.0 questionnaire monthly for 4 months. Changes over time and between-group comparisons were examined. Of 58 patients included in the study, 47% completed the questionnaire four times. Functioning was generally high, and improved social functioning was observed after 1 and 2 months. The highest symptom score was for fatigue followed by pain and nausea/vomiting. A high score for financial problems remained unchanged during the entire period. Patients with higher income had reduced pain intensity ($p = .03$) and diarrhoea ($p = .05$) than patients with income below the poverty line. After 1 month, reduction in pain intensity was observed for Nuuk citizens compared with non-Nuuk citizens ($p = .05$). After 2 months, non-Nuuk citizens reported improved social functioning compared with Nuuk citizens ($p = .05$). After 3 months, Global Health in Nuuk citizens was improved compared with non-Nuuk citizens ($p = .05$). An important clinical finding was that patients' needs for support are related to social status, and geographical factors should be taken into account when planning palliative care.

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