

POSTER 74

ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES IN SARCOMA PATIENTS UNDERGOING A DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING GUIDED BIOPSY

Philip Heesen, Nasian Mosku, Georg Schelling, Carlo Theus, Bruno Fuchs

BACKGROUND:

An imaging guided biopsy of a musculoskeletal tumor is a critical step to establish the diagnosis before treatment initiation. Because this represents an invasive procedure, patients must be informed thoroughly about the purpose and the potential side effects including pain. Health-related outcome measures are becoming more and more important specifically in the context of determining the quality of therapy and value-based health care. To the best of the authors' knowledge, there is no patient related outcome measure defined for the diagnostic work-up of sarcoma-patients.

QUESTION / PURPOSES:

How do patients with suspected sarcomas experience the invasive biopsy procedure to establish the diagnosis?

PATIENTS & METHODS:

We developed a questionnaire for patients undergoing an imaging guided core needle biopsy for a suspected sarcoma. 10 questions focused on the understanding of the purpose, about their feeling of the biopsy procedure, the pain level, and the organization of the biopsy as well as the act itself, and post procedure control. Each of the 13 questions was scored with 0 to 10 points directly on an iPad by the patient, at the time of discussing the final diagnosis.

RESULTS:

A total of 112 consecutive patients undergoing an invasive core needle biopsy filled in the Biopsy PROM. The overall mean/median score was 81% (range, 57 – 100%). For example, 95% of all patients understood the purpose for the biopsy, and 91% they felt well informed. Pain level experienced during the biopsy varied from 0 to 10, as was expected by them, but the level of pain was judged by 75% of patients as 2.7 out of 10 and lower. Wound problems were found in a mean 1.6 / median 0 (range, 0 – 10) out of ten points, following biopsy. The mean anxiety level was 3.4 (median 3; range, 0-10) out of 10.

CONCLUSION:

The assessment of patient reported outcome and experience measures undergoing an imaging guided core needle biopsy for the suspicion of a soft tissue sarcoma in the outpatient clinic is feasible. The initial analysis reveals that overall patient satisfaction level is relatively high and overall accepted. Further analysis focuses on detailed scores with respect to the type of diagnosis, location of the tumor as well as demographic parameters.