

QUALITY OF LIFE ASSESSMENT IN THE PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED NON-SMALL-CELL LUNG CANCER RECEIVING PALLIATIVE CHEMOTHERAPY

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BACKGROUND. European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Quality of Life Questionnaire Core-30 (QLQ-C30) with the Lung Cancer 13 (LC-13) module are the recommended methods of the assessment of quality of life (QoL) in lung cancer patients.

OBJECTIVES. The aim of the study was to use QLQ-C30 and LC-13 in order to predict satisfactory completion of chemotherapy in prospective study of advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients.

MATERIAL AND METHODS. In 58 patients with stage III and IV of NSCLC QoL was assessed before palliative chemotherapy and repeated in 43 patients who completed at least three cycles of treatment.

RESULTS. The symptoms that mostly influenced QoL before chemotherapy were insomnia (41.09±37.0 points), cough (39.5±30.2 points) and fatigue (30.2±30.0 points). Poor physical functioning (67.6±16.3 vs 78.3±21.3 points, p<0.05) and lack of appetite (27.1±38.0 vs 48.9±37.5 points, p<0.05) characterized the patients who have not completed as compared with the patients who completed scheduled chemotherapy. At the end of palliative chemotherapy alopecia, sore throat and constipation significantly worsened QoL, but global health status remained unchanged (55.2±21.9 and 56.8±18.5 points, respectively).

CONCLUSION. The complaints strongly influencing QoL of the patients with advanced NSCLC both before and at the end of the palliative chemotherapy include insomnia, fatigue and cough. Poor physical functioning and loss of appetite indicate significant risk of non-completion of palliative chemotherapy in advanced NSCLC patients.