

Are genetics directly linked with cancer patient reported Quality of Life outcomes? A debate based on scientific evidence.

Moderator: **Andrew Bottomley** PhD, Assistant Director, Head Quality of Life Department, EORTC, Brussels, Belgium

Panelists: **Chantal Quinten** MSc, Researcher, Quality of Life Department, EORTC, Brussels, Belgium; **Henning Flechtner** PhD, Director Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Magdeburg, Magdeburg, Germany

ISSUE: Incorporating Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) in cancer clinical trials has received increased attention over recent years. Previous studies have shown the added value of PROs alongside clinical data in survival prognostication and treatment selection. In addition, studying PROs allow for a better understanding of treatment outcomes and side effects. More recently, studies have shown that there is a relationship between a cancer patient's genetic structure and their quality of life and demonstrate how inherited genetic variations affect aspects of a patient's quality of life.

OVERVIEW: Studying PROs improves a clinician's knowledge of a cancer patient's burden and helps to select the best treatment decisions. The first panelist will use the latest results and new insights from the EORTC Patient Reported Outcomes and Behavioural Evidence (PROBE) research program to demonstrate the value of PRO alongside clinical information for health care professionals based on randomized controlled trials. It will strengthen the importance of pretreated QOL data in clinical studies to increase the correct interpretation of trial and treatment outcomes. Our second panelist will initiate debate by demonstrating that genetic patterns exist that determine how a person's quality of life will be affected. This overview will be based on scientific knowledge and an extensive literature review to find evidence of a link between genetics and PROs. Investigation into this relationship will enable health care professionals to identify which patients are likely to experience quality of life deficits and moreover improve treatment decision-making and outcomes. This debate about a possible relationship or the need to focus on translational research will stimulate the audience to share their experience, debate with the presenters and help set future priorities for PRO and genetic assessment in the oncology outcome research field.