

Conference Abstract  Free

Long-term impact of lung cancer treatment on quality of life

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Abstract

Background: Patients undergoing different treatments for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) often experience significant deteriorations in health-related quality of life (HRQoL). However, the long-term impact of such treatments on HRQoL remains underexplored.

Aim: To examine one year changes in HRQoL in patients with surgically and non-surgically treated NSCLC.

Methods: HRQoL was assessed pre-treatment (PRE), at three months (3M), and one year (1Y) after treatment initiation using a 1) cancer-specific HRQoL measure (EORTC-QLQ-C30, including global health (GH), physical function (FS), and symptoms (SS) subdomains), 2) lung cancer-specific symptom measure (EORTC-QLQ-LC13), and 3) general HRQoL measure (EQ-5D). Long-term changes (PRE-1Y) were analyzed using a Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test.

Results: 56 patients were included, with 39 patients undergoing surgery (62% male; age 66±8yrs) and 17 receiving non-surgical treatment (82% male; age 65±9yrs). In the surgical group, GH ($p < .001$) and FS ($p = .003$) declined at one year. Symptoms measured by EORTC-QLQ-LC13 increased at one year ($p = .002$). No changes were observed for SS and EQ-5D. In the non-surgical group, FS ($p = .007$) declined at one year. No changes in GH, SS, EORTC-QLQ-LC13 and EQ-5D were found (Figure 1).

Conclusion: Treatment of lung cancer had a negative effect on HRQoL subscales general health and physical function, and on lung cancer-specific symptoms one year after treatment initiation.

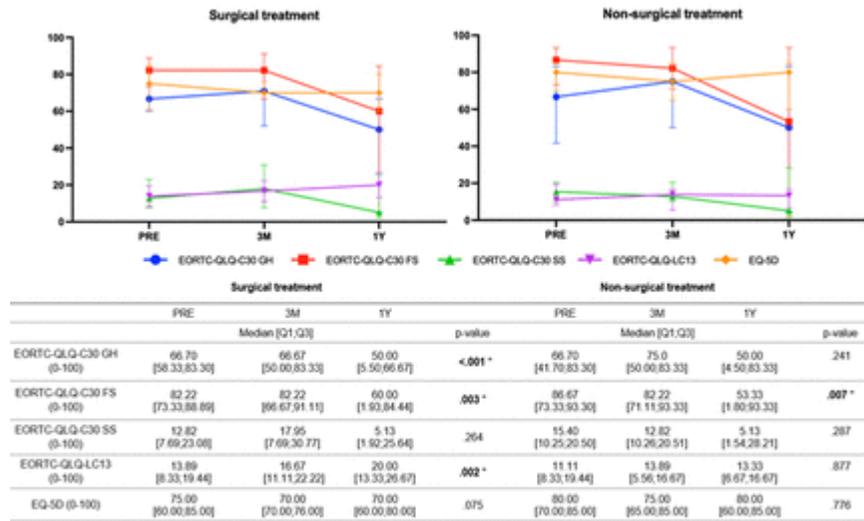


Figure 1. Changes in HRQoL over time are expressed as median [Q1; Q3]. Long-term changes (PRE-1Y) were analyzed using a Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test, while short-term changes (PRE-3M) were plotted but not analyzed. Abbreviations: EORTC QLQ-C30: European organization for the research and treatment of cancer questionnaire; GH: general health; SS: symptoms scale; FS: functional scale; EORTC-LC13: European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Lung Cancer 13-item module; EQ-5D: EuroQol-5D. PRE: pre-treatment, 3M: 3 months after treatment initiation; 1Y: 1 year after treatment initiation. * = $p < 0.05$ from PRE to 1Y.

Footnotes

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