Psychosocial training and research needs in oncology health care: a finger on the pulse

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Purpose
Exploratory research to gain insight in the needs and bottlenecks experienced by oncology health care professionals concerning education and research in psychosocial oncology.

Methods
- 1045 e-mails
- n=201
- Questionnaire

Most important results

Education wanted
- Side effects of the treatment
- Self care
- Grief and bereavement
- Communication
- End of life care
- with important others
- Fear of recurrence
- Intimacy and sexuality
- Coping
- with patients
- Social aftercare
- Medical aspects

Experiential learning preferred
- We value CASE DISCUSSION/PEER REVIEW and TESTIMONIALS from patients in courses.
- We want to be able to SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, reflect on our own actions and LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.

Awareness of scientific research in psychosocial oncology

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<th>aware</th>
<th>aware to a limited extent</th>
<th>not aware</th>
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<td>7,5%</td>
<td>59,2%</td>
<td>33,3%</td>
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Thresholds for applying scientific research in daily practice
- 61,1% indicates that it is not easy to translate scientific research results into daily practice.
- 38,9% indicates that guidelines are not specific enough for daily practice.
- 22,2% indicates that scientific research is not sufficiently in line with daily practice.

Conclusions
Oncology health care professionals need:
- more practice-oriented education and research;
- self-care tools in order to prevent stress and burn-out;
- a good translation of scientific research into clear guidelines for daily practice;
- more focus on bridging the gap between research and clinical practice.