



A GERMAN ONLINE SURVEY OF PATIENTS WITH CIN, HIGHLIGHTING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS DURING REPETITIVE DIAGNOSTICS CYCLES*

Talk FC 12
5/12/19
16.00-17.30
Van Dongen

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Objectives

HPV and cytology testing are well established screening methods, however they both are not able to distinguish between those lesions which may progress to cancer and those which may heal spontaneously.

Resulting from this, sequences of follow-ups create a burden to women as they will have to stand the ongoing uncertainty whether cancer is already in progress or not.

We designed a survey to address the question of psychological burden due to abnormal Pap smear results and/or positive HPV tests.

Question	Proportion of answers (%)
Yes, I know my actual Pap finding	40.9%
PAP I	21.0%
PAP II	20.2%
PAP III	13.3%
PAP IIID	27.6%
PAP IVA	8.7%
PAP IVB	2.0%
PAPV	0.9%
I'm not quite sure	6.6%

Table 1

Methods

The online-survey had a semi-structured design, combining explorative questions with validated elements. Participants went through a 37-item survey including the IES-R („Impact of Event Scale-Revised“ – German Version) as well as parts of the CDDQ (Cervical Dysplasia Distress) questionnaires. Participants for the survey were recruited using online marketing (via Facebook and Google) and the community of “Myriam von M” on Facebook.

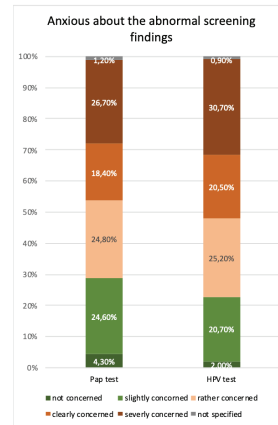


Figure 1

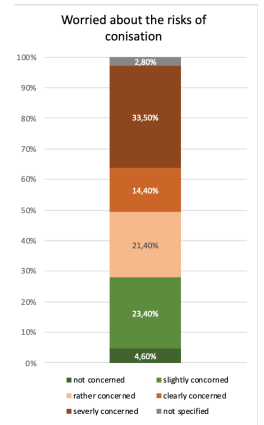


Figure 2

Results

Participants (n=3753) had a mean age of 31.8 years, and 35.3% were still in family planning. Almost half (46.6%) of the women indicated that they had 3 to 5 (32.1%) or even more (14.5%) abnormal Pap smears, but only 40.9% were aware of their actual Pap finding (table 1). 53.1% of the women had already been affected for more than one year. 69.9% and 76.4% of the participating women reported that their worries about the Pap and HPV findings, respectively, were at least “quite a bit” (Scores 3,4 & 5 on a 5-point scale, figure 1). 48.1% of them stated that the risk of conizations as well as the risk of preterm birth is important to them and “clearly” to “severely” impacting their life (Scores 4 & 5, figure 2).

Even more alarming, 69.1% stated to be afraid of developing or being diagnosed with cervical cancer and 49.4% expressed that they were even anxious about dying (figure 3).

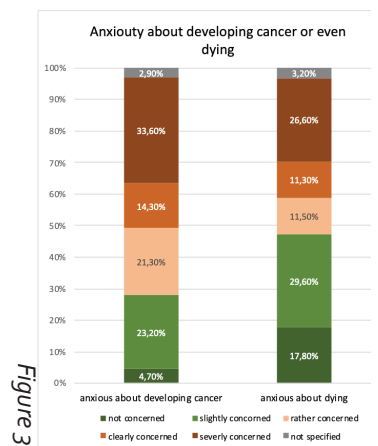


Figure 3

Conclusion

This survey is the first of its kind to investigate the psychological distress during repetitive diagnostics cycles from patients with abnormal Pap / HPV findings and highlights important findings in relation to the unmet needs for a clear prognosis or diagnosis in cervical cancer screening.

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