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MANAGING ADVANCED CANCER PAIN TOGETHER (MACPT)

Lissandra Dal Lago* 1, Mario Di Palma², Lawrence Drudge-Coates³, Diana Lüftner⁴, Susan Dargan⁵, Barry Quinn⁶ 1Institut Jules Bordet, Brussels, Belgium, 2Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris, France, 3King's College Hospital, London, United Kingdom, 4Department of Hematology, Oncology and Tumour Immunology Charité, University Hospital, Campus Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, Germany, 5Ashford & St Peters NHS Trust, 6Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

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Introduction: There is general agreement that despite great improvements in cancer treatments that pain is not consistently well managed in the advanced cancer setting. While guidelines and recommendations exist for the management of cancer pain, some focusing on a particular aspect of care including assessment tools, pharmacological and/or non-pharmacological treatments approaches, there is little available specifically focusing on the management of pain associated with metastatic cancer.

Objectives: A group of experts 'Managing Advanced Cancer Pain Together' (MACPT) developed guidance on the management of metastatic related pain. The guidance was developed from a person centered, multi-focal and multi-professional perspective, with the aim of improving pain management.

Methods: The guidance considers the physical, social, emotional and spiritual components of pain including pain as a disruption in key relationships. This innovative project addresses under treatment and patient empowerment using a creative multi-modal approach. The guidance includes a newly developed 'pain management conversation tool' to support the clinical meeting and to help the patient communicate the more hidden aspects of pain.

Results: The guidance and tool are available in German, French an English and are available to download on the group website www.macpt.eu. The guidance and tool have been reviewed by clinical experts and patient groups and seen as an innovative and improved person centered approach to managing the personal experience of pain.

Conclusion: Having developed the guidance and the conversation tool the MACPT group are working on further training materials and research exploring this innovative approach to supporting patients and clinicians in the field of advanced cancer.

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