

THE IMPACT OF THE SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL FACTORS ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER (NSCLC).

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Background: Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is a serious health problem. Identifying factors affecting quality of life (QoL) may help to modify risk factors and improve survival.

Material and Methods: The study included 180 patients treated for NSCLC in the Lower Silesian Center of Lung Diseases between January and December 2015. QoL was assessed with QLQ-C30 and QLQ-LC13 scales. General physical functioning was measured with ECOG Performance Status scale. The clinical and sociodemographic data were retrieved from medical records. The impact of clinical and sociodemographic factors on QoL was examined.

Results: NSCLC reduced the most global QoL (47.13 ± 23.36) and emotional functioning (57.78 ± 28.75), while the least cognitive functioning (76.02 ± 21.01). Patients reported the fatigue (42.15 ± 26.15), sleep problems (42.04 ± 30.79), coughing (49.81 ± 24.03), and taking analgesics (50.28 ± 37.09) as the most limiting factors. Worsening of health condition expressed by length of the malignant disease; presence of comorbidities, metastases; number of symptoms related to malignant disease; worse spirometric parameters as well as living alone had negative impact on QoL and increased intensity of presented symptoms.

Conclusions: Patients with NSCLC experience reduced QoL, especially global QoL and emotional functioning. Improvement of health condition, proper treatment of comorbidities, interventions for symptom management may improve QoL in patients with NSCLC