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Identification of Support and Information needs along the care Pathway for Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) receiving Treatment with curative intent chemo-radiotherapy: Emerging findings from the INSIGHT study.

Background: The curative intent pathway for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is complex and burdensome. Concurrent chemotherapy and radiotherapy (chemo-radiotherapy) is used to increase the effectiveness of radical radiotherapy at the same time as reducing the risks of metastatic disease. The aims of this study are to identify the information needs of patients and their carers at key points along the treatment pathway and their preferred methods for information provision.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 patients, and their carer dyads where appropriate, recruited from a cancer centre in Manchester, U.K.

Results: Data collection is now complete with the 15 patients recruited, of whom 6 were interviewed with a carer dyad. Thematic analysis is on-going to identify key themes from the data. These include; preferred means of receiving information, and access to support post treatment.

Conclusions: Further research is needed into the on-going needs of this patient cohort and data collection so far highlights a number of areas for consideration when providing information to this patient cohort.

Emerging themes highlight that a specific booklet on concurrent chemo/radiotherapy is required covering all aspects of treatment, including where relevant, mask wearing, impact of side effects of treatment and how assess support.

Work is needed to improve information giving and support to these patients both pre and post treatment. Further encouragement is highlighted to support proactive management, to enhance recovery, whilst addressing the fear and anxiety patients and carers experience due to uncertain outcomes.

