German National guideline: Palliative Care for oncological patients

Concept and integration into disease-specific guidelines

Prof. Raymond Voltz,
University Hospital Cologne, Department of Palliative Medicine

GIN Congress, Berlin 2012

Background

Growing need for recommendations to improve the quality of care provided to patients with a life-limiting disease

Increasing amount of available evidence in PC, following the establishment of PC research worldwide

High quality evidence-based guidelines

Method

Key elements for structuring the guideline

- main categories of patients needs
- main areas of scientific evidence (recent SysRev or international guidelines)
- specific clinical and health service context in Germany
- Palliative Guideline PC for cancer patients
- oncological guideline program (DKG, DKH, AWMF)

Objectives

- German Guideline Program in Oncology 2010: Palliative Care Guideline for cancer patients (German Society for Palliative Medicine)

- Aim of the presentation
  - concept underlying the development of the guideline
  - integration into disease-specific guidelines.

Results

1. Seven main topics:
   - clinical symptoms and general needs of PC patients
     - additional topics as part of future version 2.0

2. Target population: cancer patients
   Studies inclusion criteria may be restricted to cancer (e.g. depression) or include further illnesses – if an extrapolation of the results to cancer patients makes sense (e.g. dyspnea).

3. Cross-disease conception and disease-specific guidelines: integration & separation

Results

- Palliative Care Guideline for Cancer Patients

breast cancer
lung cancer
ovarian cancer
melanoma
brain tumor
etc...
Results

3. Cross-disease conception and disease-specific guidelines: integration & separation
   - delineation
     - all recommendations will be independent of underlying diagnosis
     - disease-specific therapies are not part of the PC - guideline
   - integration:
     - standard paragraph for all „vertical“ guidelines
     - all „vertical“ guidelines program should formulate at least one key question on PC and include palliative experts into their consensus panel
     - adaptation of relevant recommendations

Summary and Conclusion

• German national palliative care guideline for cancer patients: seven main topics, consensus process
• Complementary to cancer diagnosis-specific guidelines
• Basis for future „health services guideline“ (NVL)
• Offers a model how to integrate „palliative care“ into guidelines in oncology and other fields of medicine

Integration of Palliative Care

Palliative Care Guideline for Cancer Patients

Integration of Palliative Care

Palliative Care Guideline for Neurology Patients

Thanks to
- Prof Claudia Bausewein, Munich
- Dr Steffen Simon, Cologne
- Verena Geffe & Dr Anne Pralong, Cologne
- Prof. Kopp, Marburg & Dr. Follmann, Berlin
- …and all participating experts