Melanoma

Melanoma is a class of skin cancers that originate from melanocytes in the basal layer of the epidermis. Although it is not the most common skin cancer, it has a higher death rate than most other skin cancers. Melanomas are the most common cancers in the UK, with 15,000 new cases registered across the UK in 2019 (Melanoma UK, 2020).

New treatments in melanoma are gradually transforming the disease in an unprecedented and exciting way, with many patients with advanced disease benefiting from potential cures. This is reflected in an increased five-year survival rate (from 9 months in stage 4 patients with limited treatment options to the present 10-year survival rates of up to 50% with a proportion of them living >50 years).

In the wake of this, ‘patient centred’ therapy is taking a prominent place in the therapeutic landscape, with many patients with normal life expectancy being harmed by potential treatment side effects.

METHODS

The study is fully GDPR compliant. The study is designed to understand:

• Patient demographics
• Prevalent symptom burden and co-morbidities
• Differences in symptom burden across the disease stages
• Impact of treatment on symptom burden

The registry employs a BYOD technology, which allows patients to record symptoms in real-time (EORTC QLQ-C30, a cancer specific instrument widely used in oncology across different types of cancer). A melanoma-specific module of the EORTC QLQ-C30 (QLQ-MEL38) is being developed specifically updated at the time of registry launch, that will expand the symptom burden in melanoma.

The EORTC QLQ-C30

The present study analysed symptom data collected within the MRW app with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) QLQ-C30 as a screen-specific instrument widely used in oncology across different types of cancer.

Symptom burden is higher for patients with more advanced disease. In particular, stage 4 patients have the highest scores across all disease symptoms.

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