Patients' experiences of lung cancer

Insights from Taiwan

Introduction

The Global Lung Cancer Coalition (GLCC), an alliance of 41 patient organisations from 29 countries across the world, wanted to understand the challenges patients are currently facing to inform its patient advocacy work and the work of its member organisations.

In March 2024, the GLCC commissioned Censuswide to conduct a survey of lung cancer patients.

The survey received **905 responses** from patients across **18 countries**. For more information about the global findings, please visit www.lungcancercoalition.org/surveys.

Key findings from Taiwan

Demographics*

50
lung cancer patients responded

80% identified as male;
20% as female

72% had non-small cell lung cancer

98%
were diagnosed in the last **five years**

** Survey respondents were predominantly male, younger, and included a higher proportion of those with small cell lung cancer than the general lung cancer population.*

Experiences of biomarker testing

All eligible respondents **had been spoken to about** biomarker testing

33% did **not understand** what biomarker testing was when they were first spoken to about it

These results suggest a need for **improved communication around the topic of biomarker testing**.

Support preferences in coping with lung cancer

66% would like to get help from **healthcare professionals** but **only 54%** reported **getting help from them**; **54%** receive help from **online support groups** but only **42%** want to get help from them

44% would like to get help through **counselling/therapy**, but only **26%** reported **getting help** that way

The respondents sought help from a **variety of places**. Their **preferences did not always match the support they received**, with a greater need for help from healthcare professionals and counselling/therapy and less interest in online support groups.

Involvement with treatment teams

All respondents said that they felt **involved** in decisions about their treatment and care

38% of respondents felt **fully involved**, but **36%** wanted to be **more involved**

While patient involvement was high, **treatment teams need to ensure** patients have the opportunity to be **involved in decision-making as much as they would like** to be.

Preferred methods of receiving information

Throughout most of the patient journey, **face-to-face interactions** were preferred, **telephone conversations** were preferred when **finding out the diagnosis** and if there was a **change in treatment**

Apps were the most popular format for receiving information (preferred by **34%**), followed by **cancer support hotlines (28%)**

Whilst the results indicate a **preference for direct interaction** when receiving information, it remains crucial that treatment teams **understand and accommodate individual patient preferences** along the patient journey.

Call to action

This year's Patient Experience Survey highlighted **encouraging trends, including improved involvement in treatment and care decisions** when compared to last year's results. The results, however, also showed that more needs to be done to ensure all patients feel as involved as they would like in decision-making, that treatment teams clearly communicate to patients on topics relevant to their condition, such as biomarker testing, and that patients can access the support options of their preference.

The GLCC is therefore calling for the **implementation of the rights set out in its Patient Charter**, to ensure that all lung cancer patients have access to quality healthcare, informed self-determination, which includes involvement in decision-making, and physical and mental integrity.

More information

The GLCC member in Taiwan is:

- **Formosa Cancer Foundation:** https://www.canceraway.org.tw/

For more information about this survey and the work of the GLCC, please visit our website: https://www.lungcancercoalition.org/ or email our secretariat at: glcc@roycastle.org