
POSTER ABSTRACT

Patients with non-oncological chronic conditions: Improving end-of-life care through integrated care and early palliative care provision

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Background: The last WHO definition of palliative care (PC) recognizes the integration of early PC in the course of illness and in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to treat disease as the way to provide optimal care. There is wide literature highlighting the benefits of early implementation of PC in oncological patients and there is a growing recognition of PC as an integral aspect of cancer treatment with the establishment of a range of specific guidelines concerning palliative cancer care. Nevertheless, these advances are not developed to the same extent in the approach of non-oncological chronic conditions. In this regard, patients of non-cancer diseases are rarely offered these services and even when they are admitted to a PC unit they are typically closer to death and have a lower functional level than those with cancer. It is important to highlight this situation as the great majority of adults in need of PC die from non-oncological diseases – such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases or diabetes – accounting a higher percentage than those with cancer.

Aims and objectives: INADVANCE project (funded under the H2020 Programme) seeks an earlier, integrated and more effective implementation of PC to adequately address the needs of non-oncological chronic patients. Thus, this workshop is focused on early PC among patients with chronic conditions. This analysis will be encouraged by presenting the current state of early PC among this profile of patients, some experiences in their management at different healthcare systems. Finally, at the end of the workshop a common discussion between all presenters and attendants will be performed in order to analyze main barriers and facilitators to organize and implement PC services addressed to chronic complex patients.

Format: A 90-minutes workshop session will be organized in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives. Two people from INADVANCE project will be in charge of organizing and running the workshop with the participation of the following speakers in these topics:

“Introduction” (5min): outline of the main objectives and structure of the session (Ascensión Doñate).

“Early PC for patients with complex chronic conditions” (10min): presentation of INADVANCE project, the current state of the art of PC services among non-oncological chronic conditions, how to identify patients in need of PC (Ascensión Doñate).

“Experiences in the provision of PC among non-oncological conditions” (40min): five presentations of local experiences (Soledad Giménez, Vania Dimitrova, Panagiotis Bamidis, Adriano Fernandes & Gordon Linklater). Time for questions.

“Barriers and facilitators to effectively implement PC” (30min): open discussion with speakers and attendants to the workshop (Soledad Giménez). For this session several materials will be arranged, such as a boards, markers or post-it.

“Sum up” (5min): main conclusions (Ascensión Doñate).

Target audience: People interested in PC, care and management of chronic conditions at clinical and organizational level.

Learnings: Workshop participants will learn about differences in the provision of integrated PC between cancer vs. non-cancer diseases, real experiences improving the PC of chronic complex conditions and challenges for future improvement.

Keywords: palliative care; early care; complex chronic conditions
