Inequalities in financial distress, symptoms and quality of life among patients with advanced cancer in France and the United States of America

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Purpose: Financial distress (FD) is common among patients with advanced cancer. Our purpose was to compare the frequency and intensity of FD and its associations with symptom distress and quality of life (QOL) in these patients in France and the US.

Methods: In this secondary analysis of two cross-sectional studies, we assessed data on 292 patients who received cancer care at a public hospital or a comprehensive cancer center in France (143 patients) or the US (149 patients). Patients self-rated FD and assessed symptoms, psychosocial distress, and QOL on validated questionnaires.

Results: The average patient age was 59 years, and 144 (49%) were female. FD was reported in 74 (52%) of patients in France and 129 (88%) of those in the US (p<0.001). Severe FD (≥4/10) was reported in 48 (34%) patients in France and 100 (68%) in the US (p<0.001).

Conclusion: Regardless of healthcare system, FD is frequent in patients with advanced cancer. US patients were more likely to have FD than French patients but reported better QOL. Further research should focus on factors contributing to FD and opportunities for remediation.

References:

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