ABOUT SOME MENTAL DISORDERS
IN CANCER PALLIATIVE CARE

V. Fedunenko (Rostov Medical University)
S. Savina (“Hippocrates” Medical Centre)
B. Zaydiner (Regional Cancer Centre)
Rostov-on-Don, Russia
The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests
Introduction

Mental disorders in cancer patients are under-recognized by both GPs and oncologists, such situation burdens patients’ state.
Objectives

To assess management options for some of these disorders in bedside settings
Methods

Observational survey was undertaken. The patients were evaluated at home; neuropsychiatric manifestations were detected with clinical examination & routine tests (usually MMSE and CAM)
Results

1042 patients (men 489 women 553, mean age 66.7 ± 5.8 years) were consulted for variety of malignancies. Mental disorders were detected in 437 (41.9 % of total cohort), nosologic prevalence being: depression & other mood disturbances 153 patients (35.0%), cognitive impairment 92 (21.1%)
Results
delirium (hyperactive, hypoactive & mixed) was identified in 186 (42.6%) pts, other disorders 6 (1.4%). The most difficult for differentiating were cases when delirium superimposed on dementia (38 pts) The delirium’s fluctuating consciousness permitted it to set apart from dementia. Identification of the new-onset delirium necessitated immediate intervention which contributed to disorder reversal or at least improvement.
Conclusions

The risk factors for delirium were

- a MMSE score < 20,
- visual & hearing deficit,
- dehydration.

To identify the new-onset delirium necessitated immediate intervention treatment which contributed to disorder reversal, or at least improvement. Being mentally aware is a preference reiterated by seriously ill patients.