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Application Title:

Cancer in a continuous state

General Audience Summary:

Cancer in a continuous state: the experience of patients with metastatic breast cancer and new challenges for oncological care. This project (study and campaign) aims to contribute to knowledge of the reality represented by patients with metastatic breast cancer. For some time now, thanks to the innovation in the treatment of advanced breast cancer, a great number of patients have survived for years with active periods of illness. This new situation makes it essential to find out both the specific needs of this group of patients and the key elements of oncological care that enable the provision of an effective response that is better tailored to such needs. The approach to this reality may be structured in the following dimensions:

- Time dimension: Cancer in a continuous state, i.e. metastatic, is not the summation of acute episodes.
- Clinical dimension:
 - o Diversity of paths: metastatic breast cancer in the first or subsequent diagnosis.
 - o Symptom burden: physical and emotional level
 - o Innovation in treatments and clinical trials
- Social dimension: cure expectations and the media

GENERAL AIMS

- To find out the critical elements that enable breast cancer patients to reconcile their lives with the impact and challenges presented by metastatic disease.
- To identify the key factors of oncological care that respond to the specific needs of metastatic breast cancer patients.
- To publicise the results on the needs of metastatic disease through a national awareness campaign in every of the 17 regions of Spain

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive and explanatory study based on a qualitative methodology from the perspective of the patients and professionals involved in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Focus groups will be created for patients with metastasis in the first diagnosis of breast cancer and patients who have subsequently developed metastasis. Furthermore, the focus group technique will serve to explore the vision of the professionals who belong to hospitals with varying levels of complexity. The study will be conducted in the 17 Autonomous Regions and will therefore cover the whole of Spain.

Publicity campaign: The results of the study together with its analysis and conclusions will be published and distributed to the Health Administration, medical professionals, patients' associations and society at large through regional meetings. The study results will be sent to local administrations by the Spanish Federation of Breast Cancer.

Keywords:

National Planning