More questions than answers: A systematic mixed studies literature review of the psychological impact of undergoing active surveillance for low-risk prostate cancer.


Published in:
Psycho-oncology

Document Version:
Peer reviewed version

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:
Link to publication record in Queen's University Belfast Research Portal

Publisher rights
© 2016 The Authors
This is the peer reviewed version of the following article: More questions than answers: A systematic mixed studies literature review of the psychological impact of undergoing active surveillance for low-risk prostate cancer, Psycho-Oncology, 25: S1, pp. 10, which has been published in final form at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pon.4077/abstract
This article may be used for non-commercial purposes in accordance with Wiley Terms and Conditions for Self-Archiving.

General rights
Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Queen's University Belfast Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy
The Research Portal is Queen’s institutional repository that provides access to Queen’s research output. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person’s rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact openaccess@qub.ac.uk.

Download date:28. Feb. 2020

Ruane-McAteer, E. Porter, S. O’Sullivan, J. Prue, G.

Background

Frequently men with prostate cancer are diagnosed with low risk disease. Active Surveillance (AS) allows these men to postpone or avoid the adverse side-effects associated with curative treatment until the disease progresses, although this uncertainty can create an additional emotional burden.

Aim

To determine the psychological impact of AS to inform future study in this area and to provide recommendations for clinical practice.

Methods

Relevant studies were identified through an electronic database search using specified keywords from inception to September 2015. As both quantitative and qualitative studies were included, the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool was used to assess methodological quality.

Results

Twenty-three papers were included (20 quantitative, 3 qualitative). Papers were generally of low methodological quality. AS patients appeared to report favourable psychological wellbeing, with only a small proportion reporting psychological dysfunction. Factors associated with increased anxiety and depression included: lack of a partner, impaired mental health and neurotic personality. Increased role of the physician influenced anxiety and uncertainty. Ability to manage intrusive thoughts appeared to reduce distress.

Conclusion

Due to inappropriately timed baseline measures, inappropriate or lack of comparison/control groups, and insufficient sample size, the conclusion that AS has minimal impact on
psychological wellbeing may not be a true reflection of the AS experience. Further research should seek to address these limitations, and practitioners should be aware that despite medical benefits of AS, patients of a certain demographic profile or life experiences may require additional support during their time on AS.