

Implementing Psychosocial and Integrative Therapies for Cancer-Related Fatigue

## MASCC/ISOO

Annual Meeting on Suppportive Care in Cancer

www.mascc.org/meeting

Follow us on Twitter: @CancerCareMASCC







#### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Dr. Karen Mustian, PhD, MPH.

No conflicts to declare





#### **Clinical Question**

 What are the optimal effective treatments for cancerrelated fatigue experienced by adult cancer patients while receiving and after completing treatment?





## **Definition of Cancer-Related Fatigue**

- Cancer-related fatigue (CRF) is a distressing, overwhelming, multidimensional sense of physical and/or mental tiredness.
- CRF is characterized by exhaustion associated with cancer and/or its treatments.
- CRF is not proportional to recent physical or mental activity, and cannot be alleviated by simple rest or sleep alone.





#### **Defined Levels of Evidence**

#### Level I

- at least 2 well-designed and highly powered RCTs
- appropriate specific component/mechanism of action control condition for comparison
- fatigue is a primary outcome

#### Level II

- at least 2 well-designed and highly powered RCTs
- appropriate specific component/mechanism of action control condition for comparison
- fatigue is a secondary outcome



#### **Defined Levels of Evidence**

#### Level III

- at least 2 well-designed RCTs
- <u>standard or usual care control condition</u> with no specific component/mechanism of action controlled for in the comparison arm
- fatigue is a <u>primary or secondary outcome</u>

#### Level IV

- at least 2 smaller, preliminary, well-designed experimental or quasiexperimental studies
- standard or usual care control condition or a specific component/mechanism of action control condition
- fatigue is a primary or secondary outcome
- data is considered unclassified, emerging treatment, preliminary in nature



#### **Defined Criteria for Recommendations**

- Recommended
  - Reserved for guidelines based on Level I and Level II evidence
- Reasonable to Suggest
  - Reserved for guidelines based on Level III evidence
- No Guideline Possible
  - Reserved for Level IV evidence
  - When little or no evidence is available
  - When the committee lacks consensus on interpretation of existing evidence



### **Screening**

- All healthcare providers should routinely screen for the presence of fatigue from the point of diagnosis throughout the entire cancer trajectory into survivorship.
- Screening should be performed at regular intervals including initial visits and at appropriate follow up intervals (e.g., daily among inpatients, ambulatory clinic visits, self-monitoring at home).



## **Screening**

 Screening should be done with reliable patient-reported measures that assess the presence and severity of fatigue and possess accepted and valid cut-points for determining the need for further evaluation.





### **Comprehensive Evaluation**

- Focused fatigue history
- Disease status
- Treatable contributing factors
- Laboratory evaluation
- Other diagnostic testing





#### **Treatment Guidelines**

- Address all treatable medical and psychosocial factors such as
  - Thyroid disease
  - Anemia
  - Pain
  - Nutritional deficiency
  - Adverse medication effects
  - Others





## Psychosocial Recommendations for Treating Cancer-Related Fatigue

- Level I None
- Level II None
- Level III
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (13 RCTs)
  - ➤ Imagery (3 RCTs)
- Level IV
  - Psychoeducational Programs (7 RCTs)
  - ➤ Individual Counseling (4 RCTs)
  - ➤ Energy Conservation (2 RCTs)



## Integrative Recommendations for Treating **Cancer-Related Fatigue**

- Level I None
- Level II None
  - ➤ Accupressure (6 RCTs)
- Level III
  - ➤ Accupuncture (9 RCTs)
  - ➤ Massage (6 RCTs)
  - ➤ Hypnosis (5 RCTs)





# Integrative Recommendations for Treating Cancer-Related Fatigue

- Level IV Emerging
  - ➤ Energy Therapies (8 RCTs)
  - ➤ Relaxation Therapy (5 RCTs)
  - ➤ Music Therapy (3 RCTs)
  - ➤ Aromatherapy (1 RCTs)
  - ➤ Light Therapy (1 RCT)
  - ➤ Laughter Therapy (1 RCT)











