

Interim report

Date of sending out the form:

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Contact person/applicant:

Teodora Alexa-Stratulat

Country

Romania

E-mail

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Title of the granted project

Multidisciplinary approach for improving sexual health in female cancer survivors

Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)

8750

Initial funding (part of the grant received already) in euro:

6560

Final amount to be paid by ESC (in euro):

2190

Project number:

P-2017-A-02

Allocated mentor:

D. Archer

Date project actually started:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Planned date of completion:

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Have there been any problems or issues with starting or continuing this project? If so, what impact will that have on your planned completion date?

There have been some small issues with obtaining the ethical approval of both the University and the Regional Institute of Oncology - the committee was reluctant to approve the recording of all the sessions. As such, we agreed to take notes instead of recording the sessions and we received the approval of both committees. Because it was resolved in a timely manner, this issue will not influence the planned completion date. We also had some delays regarding staff payments due to paperwork, but this did not affect actual patient enrollment.

Have you discussed the project status and any problems with your Mentor?

The issues we have encountered so far did not require outside assistance. We will ask for the help of our Mentor once we have more data and can begin interpreting our findings.

Please provide a synopsis of your findings and data so far (max 500 words)

The first step of the project was obtaining the ethical approval for the project from both the University and the Regional Institute of Oncology. Afterwards, we translated the QLACS questionnaire and validated it and obtained permission to use for the other two instruments used in this study (EORTC and SF-36).

We started enrolling patients in the summer of 2018. So far, 40 female cancer survivors have agreed to take part in the study; one of them decided to withdraw after completing the initial screening tests. Statistical analysis identified four items in the QLACS questionnaire that are most useful for measuring sexual function and found that the internal consistency coefficient Alpha Crombach was satisfactory (.715).

Each patient received an individual number (in order to ensure anonymity) and all patient data was included in an Excel file. Interim analysis of sexual health-related items (items 10, 12, 16 and 26 of the QLACS questionnaire) showed that almost all of the patients have some type of sexual dysfunction. For item 10 of the QLACS questionnaire ("In the past four weeks, you were bothered by being unable to function sexually"), almost 45% of the patients answered "sometimes" and almost 15% answered "frequently".

For item 12 of the QLACS questionnaire ("In the past four weeks, you were dissatisfied with your sex life"), over 35% of the patients answered "sometimes" and almost 15% answered "frequently".

For item 16 of the QLACS questionnaire ("In the past four weeks, you lacked interest in sex"), over 50% of the patients answered "sometimes" and almost 30% answered "very often".

For item 26 of the QLACS questionnaire ("In the past four weeks, you avoided sexual activity"), over 20% of the patients answered "frequently", almost 15% answered "very often" and over 20% answered "always".

By means of the RANDBETWEEN() function, we randomized patients in the intervention group and the control group. Patients in the intervention group were then scheduled for their three consultations. The consultations usually take place approximately one-two months after the initial screening process. At this time point, approximately 75% of the enrolled patients of the intervention arm have already talked with the psychologist, oncologist and gynecologist. A few of the patients have already reached the 6-month assessment time-point. Unfortunately, their number is too small for any statistical evaluation.

Please provide a current budget on how much you have spent to date. Receipts may be requested.

So far, we have spent approximately 2250 EURO for staffing - screening and consultations. Because the money was wired to the University, the payments were delivered as grant-related salaries; proofs are available upon request.

Full Name

Teodora Alexa-Stratulat

Date

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Questions? ESC Central Office: info@escrh.eu / Tel. 0032 2 582 08 52

Once received and assessed, you will be contacted regarding the final payment.

Type a question

info@escrh.eu