

Study group – Breast Cancer



WAVES

Widening Aims and giving patients a Voice for Expanded Structures in breast cancer care jointly developed by patients and physicians

For the idea of this study, to analyze the current status of breast cancer care with focus on communication a questionnaire was developed by the working group of the BZKF University Study Sites together with patient advocates and experts of psychology, psychosomatic medicine and psychiatry, communication specialists, Breast Care Nurses and Oncology Nurse Practitioners.

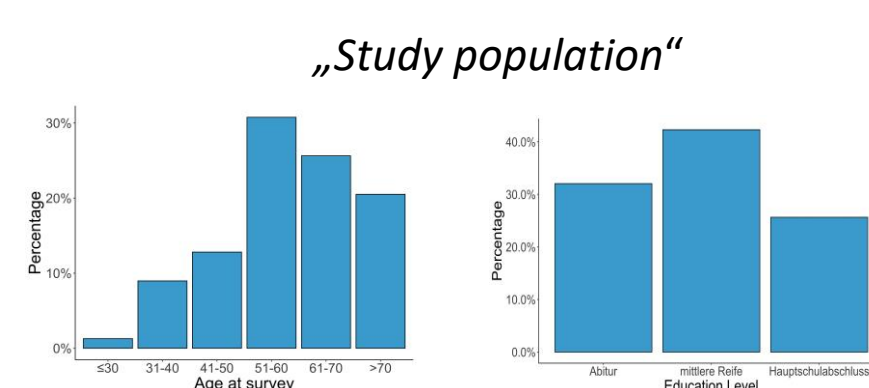
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Matthias W. Beckmann, Prof. Dr. Peter A. Fasching
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Achievements

Within the first funding period we reached:

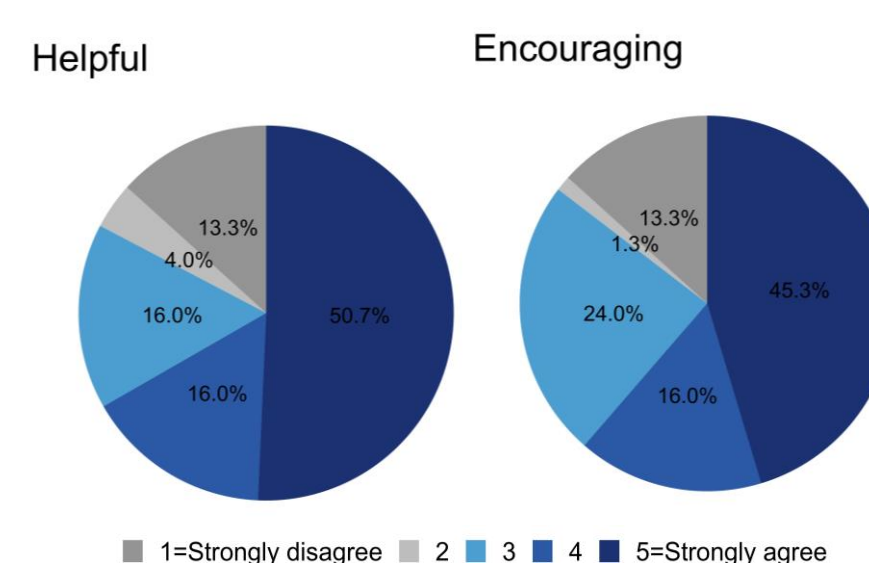
- Introduction and establishment of a joint working group of *physicians* from the 6 BZKF-university centers with representatives from gynecology, oncology, psychology, psychosomatics, psychiatry and the *local patient organizations*.
- Creation, finalization of an online-tool based (REDCap) first patient questionnaire focusing on communication between patients and health care providers.
- From 4.200 patients have been contacted within the last 6 weeks 327 have successfully participated (15.07.2022) and 3000 more patient-contacts are planned.
- The study is currently recruiting over 100 participants per week.
- The questionnaire for the individualized treating physician is also finalized and starts to run from August.
- First successful media events with presentation of WAVES.



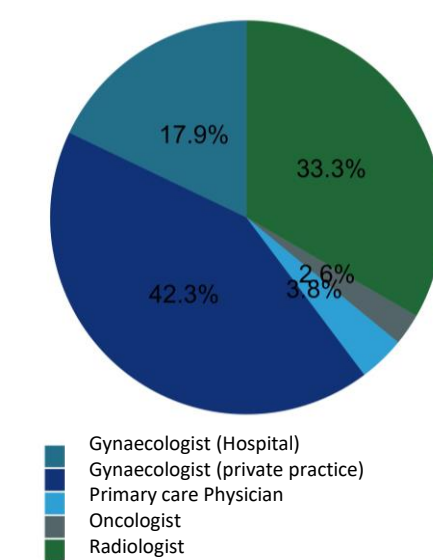
First results:

Patient questionnaire includes several statistical question types (e.g. general or yes/no, choice).

„How did you feel about your physician when you were told of your initial diagnosis?“



„Physician who communicated the initial diagnosis of Breast Cancer“



First 2 study objectives will be reached at the end of the first funding period (based on state level data acquisition):

Analyzing the current status of breast cancer care - from patients` and their treating health care providers` point of view (female and male). Comparison between patient and attending physician responses.

Future Milestones

A following funding period by the BZKF:

- » enables an extension of the study on a national level with more than 5-10 times as many BC patients
- Comparison state versus national level data
- Statistically more valid statements
- better conditions for high-ranked publications

- » Creation of a generally valid standardized questionnaire with focus on patient-physician communication
- » Preparation of a position paper for the first contact with politicians and representatives of the health care system
- » Long-term goal: Harmonizing of national data structures

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