

STH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ONCOLOGY AND CANCER RESEARCH



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Are professional caregivers of people with intellectual disability sufficiently trained for cancer prevention, monitoring and screening? An evaluation on 933 questionnaires in France

Background

Cancers are as common in people with intellectual disabilities (ID) as in the general population, but are often diagnosed late. As people with ID have limited cognitive abilities, their health monitoring often relies on family and professional caregivers (CG). Thus, they endorse the responsibility to identify symptoms that could reveal a cancer, to initiate screening be sufficiently informed and trained about cancer. This study aims to examine knowledge of professional CG about cancer compared to general population.

Method

An anonymous questionnaire prepared by cancer experts was administered to professional CG of randomly selected institutions for people with ID in 11 regions in France to insure national representativeness and institutions diversity. It contains 8 questions on general knowledge about cancer and 3 questions on-perceived level of information/training. Using Welch statistical test the results at the questionnaire were compared to those of a control group of 153 people from the general population (GP).

Results: Answers to 933 questionnaires (58 % of those addressed) indicated that CG had less knowledge about cancer prevention ($t(204.52)=-1.6823$, $p=0.0940$, $d=0.1472$), screening ($t(206.00)=-2.7853$, $p=0.0058$, $d=0.2415$), early symptoms ($t(201.11)=-2.0375$, $p=0.0429$, $d=0.1824$) and total knowledge score ($t(201.94)=-2.4769$, $p=0.0141$, $d=0.2205$) compared to persons in the GP. The vast majority of CG (92 %) indicated they did not receive specific training about cancer and, as a consequence, did not feel sufficiently informed about it.

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Conclusion

Caregivers of adults with intellectual disability have a limited knowledge on prevention and early detection of cancers. Specific training about cancer should be designed to improve information and prevent negative consequences of late diagnosis.

Support

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Biography

Dr. Daniel Satgé is a senior researcher affiliated with the University of Montpellier I, Montpellier, France. He serves as the Director of ONCODEFI, an organization committed to advancing cancer care and research for persons with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Satgé's research focuses on oncology and cancer epidemiology with a particular emphasis on cancer incidence, diagnosis, treatment, and screening in vulnerable populations, including those with intellectual or multiple disabilities. He has contributed to numerous peer-reviewed articles, including investigations into how cancer risk and patterns differ in persons with profound disabilities. In addition to his research role, Dr. Satgé is active in the interface between care and advocacy. As director of ONCODEFI, he helps coordinate documentation, research, and intervention efforts to improve cancer management and surveillance for intellectually disabled populations.