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Multidisciplinary Oncology Network in primary care in the Netherlands

MSc Heleen Burghout

FysioAlign and MuON, Netherlands

additional authors:

Diekse van der Brugge - PP Consultancy - The Netherlands

Ruub Vis - VisFysiotherapie - The Netherlands

Petra Edelman - Gelderse Vallei Hospital, oncology department - The Netherlands

Sietse van der Veldt - Care for Cancer - The Netherlands

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Context: Oncology care in the Netherlands is primarily provided in hospital settings where it is very well organized. In primary care however, the care for patients with cancer is fragmented. Nevertheless many patients seek additional care that is nearby and easily accessible in primary care settings for the consequences of their medical treatment. There is also a need and desire to transfer certain parts of oncology care to the primary care setting. Above that, the concentration of oncology care in specialized hospitals implies a more important role of the primary care setting as patients do not wish to travel far for, for instance, their physiotherapy or psychosocial support.

Purpose and state of the art: The need for a strong organization of oncology care in the primary care setting is obvious. The MuON project (Multidisciplinary Oncology Network) connects the different and relevant primary care disciplines with each other and trans mural with the professionals in hospitals. Focused on quality of the participating caregivers MuON emphasizes self-management and empowerment of cancer patients and cancer survivors.

Statement for debate: Additional care for cancer patients and cancer survivors will be best provided by highly trained professional caregivers organized in trans mural networks.

2209- Leonard
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Epidemiology of Speech Disorders in Elderly Primary Care Patients and Future Directions for Primary Care Research

Ms. Rebecca Leonard

University of Alberta, Canada

additional authors:

Dr. Neil Drummond - University of Alberta - Canada

Dr. Linda Carroll - University of Alberta - Canada

Dr. Tammy Hopper - University of Alberta - Canada

keywords: speech disorder, elderly, epidemiology, primary care

Speech disorders affect elderly adults in unique ways and through many causal pathways. Such disorders pose significant threats to the quality of life of aging populations internationally. In Canada primary care is a major focus for resource utilization and first point-of-contact for most community-dwelling elderly patients. Thus primary care physicians may increasingly encounter conditions faced by elderly patients, which may be beyond their traditional scope of practice.

The epidemiology of speech disorders facing the elderly, community-based population is not well-known in the context of primary care. In Canada, referral rates to speech-language pathologists remain relatively