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INITIATING PROM MEASUREMENT IN ONCOLOGY HOSPITAL – HOW WE INITIATED

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INTRODUCTION

Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) are measurement tools used to collect information on aspects of patient's health status that are relevant to their quality of life, including symptoms, functionality, and physical, mental and social health. PROMs tools are categorized as Generic (applied across different populations) & Condition-specific (used to assess outcomes that are specific or unique to particular diseases or sectors of care).

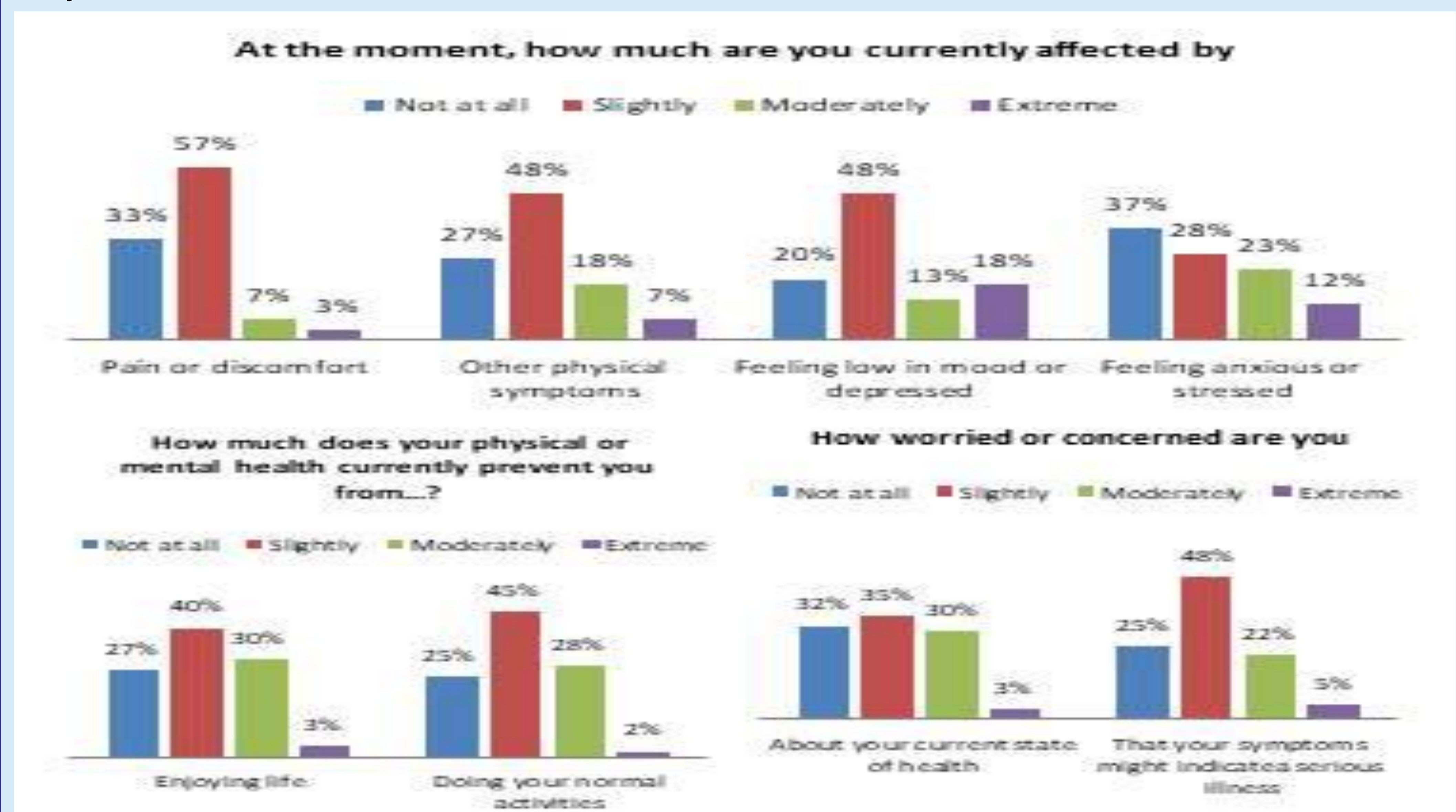
AIM

There is a standard in Chapter 5 – Patient safety & Quality (PSQ) improvement of National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Health care providers (NABH) 5th edition which states that the organization has a mechanism to capture patient reported outcome measures (PSQ 3e).

Therefore in order to achieve the compliance to the standard requirement basic PROM was defined and data was collected.

RESULTS

The sample size included 15 patients undergoing chemotherapy, 25 had surgery done, 5 were taking Radiation therapy and 15 were on supportive care post treatment. As per the responses captured, 90% of the patients either had slight pain or no pain at all during treatment and 10% had extreme to moderate pain. 75% patients had slight to no physical symptoms and 25% had few symptoms. 67% of the patients were enjoying life as compared to 33% feeling stressed/anxiety. Other parameters indicated that 32% patients were feeling depressed during the treatment whereas 68% were optimistic and untroubled. 37% of patients had no stress, 28% were slightly stressed, 30% were moderate and 12% were extremely stressed of the treatment. 70% of the patients were very actively doing activities of daily living and 30% faced moderate to extreme difficulty in doing so. 67% of the patients were worried about their current health status and 73% felt that their symptoms do not indicate that they have serious illness.



METHOD

A generic tool was formulated in the form of a questionnaire to ask patients about their health and feelings during treatment. The five points Likert Scale was used to capture patient responses. The feedback from patients who were undergoing treatment was taken. The questionnaire included question as how much patient was currently affected by pain or discomfort, any other physical symptoms, feeling low in mood or depressed, feeling anxious or stressed, are they enjoying their life and are able to do their normal activities. Also, how worried they are about their current state of health. The responses were captured through direct interview with patient/family waiting for their turn in the OPD. 60 responses were captured and analysed.

CONCLUSIONS

Majority of patient undergoing cancer treatment were optimistic and untroubled. The outlook was positive and hopeful. The majority of patients who had undergone surgery reported slight pain as very few had faced extreme pain. The patient on chemotherapy had few physical symptoms as 75% patients had slight to no physical symptoms during treatment and were able to perform normal activities of daily living. This was a baseline study to initiate PROM, further analysis can be done taking into account the stage and morbidity of patients as well.

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