

Abstract

Project: SCAPAS-LungCancer

Improving Supportive Care for Patients Surgically Treated for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer – symptom assessment and approaches to symptom (self)management

Primary investigators

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Background

This research focus on patients receiving surgery for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). In the absence of screening, little is known about symptom assessment near the time of diagnosis not to mention throughout the treatment process. It is, however, reported that these patients have significant symptom burden within the first six months of diagnosis and that such symptoms are inconsistently assessed.

Aim

The overall aim is to investigate symptoms and improve caring approaches to symptom (self)management in patients surgically treated for NSCLC in enhanced recovery after surgery programs.

Design

Three work packages (WP) will be carried out:

WP 1: A qualitative interview study

WP 2: A qualitative ethnographic study

WP 3: A study on self-reported symptom burden, QoL, and mental health

Methods

A qualitative and quantitative longitudinal prospective design is thus adopted. An exploration of patient experiences of symptoms (WP 1), patient interactions with clinicians and peers about symptom expressions and responses (WP 2) as well as self-reported symptoms, quality of life and mental health (WP 3) will be conducted from time of diagnosis and throughout the surgical treatment trajectory. Participants are recruited from the lung surgical departments of Copenhagen University Hospital Rigshospitalet and Odense University Hospital. Data will be collected through multiple methods; individual interviews (WP 1), ethnographic fieldwork (WP 2) and patient-reported questionnaires (WP 3).

Clinical impact

The clinical impact is overall directed through developing interventions to routinely assess and manage symptoms and optimize the patient's self-management ability to help improve long-term consequence and supportive care for patients surgically treated for NSCLC.