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Kylstra, W.; Leenhouts, G.; Panneman, M.; Hahn, D.; Everaerd, W.; Heintz, P.; Weymar Schultz, W.; van de Wiel, H.

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NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER SURVIVORS AND THEIR PARTNERS

* Kylstra, W. ☆, Leenhouts, G. ☆, Panneman, M. ☆ Hahn, D. ☆ □, Everaerd, W. ☆, Heintz, P. Δ, Weymar Schultz, W. #, van de Wief, H. #.

☆ Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Amsterdam;

□ The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam;

Δ Department of Gynaecology, Academic Hospital Utrecht;

Department of Gynaecology / Medical Psychology, Academic Hospital Groningen; The Netherlands

We report on the progress of a prospective multi-center study on needs of early stage gynaecological cancer patients and their partners with a focus on sexuality. The needs of gynaecological cancer patients will be compared with the needs of early stage breast cancer patients, benign gynaecological patients and 'healthy' women.

Self-report questionnaires are filled out pre-treatment and 6, 8, 10, and 12 months post-treatment (T1-T5). The following instruments are used: CAncer Rehabilitation Evaluation System - Short Form (Coscarelli Schag) *, Questionnaire for Sexual Dysfunctions (Vroege) *, Mental Health Inventory (Berwick) *, Interactional Problem Solving Questionnaire (Lange) * and some additional disease specific questions. Partners will be asked to administer the questionnaires marked with an asterisk (*). Finally the data will reveal the incidence, severity and course of rehabilitation problems during the first year after gynaecological cancer.

In this presentation we will show data of the gynaecological sample (cancer patients n=75 and their partners; benign n=75). A comparison will be made between the psychosocial and psychosexual functioning pre-treatment and at 6 months post-treatment.

The desirability of the development of structured psychosocial help for cancer survivors and their partners will be discussed. The feasibility of the Questionnaire for Sexual Dysfunctions to assess sexual dysfunctions within a cancer population will be mentioned briefly.