

British Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Title: YoDA BRCA: Views and experiences around genetic testing for young women with breast cancer - developing a decision aid

Abstract No. 0014

Title YoDA BRCA: Views and experiences around genetic testing for young women with breast cancer - developing a decision aid

Abstract **Background:** Younger women diagnosed with breast cancer are more likely to have inherited genetic mutations. Rapid access genetic testing at the time of diagnosis is not standard practice but is becoming increasingly common in the UK in order to identify gene carriers and facilitate early risk reducing surgery in addition to management of the presenting tumour. Information about genetic testing aimed at these women is often unavailable outside of specialist regional genetics services and decision aids (DA) can support women to make informed choices.

Aim: To explore the views and experiences of young women about genetic testing and their information preferences to inform the development of a web-based DA.

Methods: Participants (≤ 50 yrs and within 18 months of diagnosis) were recruited from two NHS hospitals and interviewed using a semi-structured format. Purposive sampling was used to ensure inclusion of women with a range of different characteristics relating to genetic testing. Verbatim transcripts were interrogated using a framework approach.

Results: Preliminary analysis identified the following themes with corresponding sub-themes: Concerns about the implications of genetic testing for family members; a desire for knowledge about the processes and implications of testing and a preference for clear and 'jargon-free' information. Complete study findings will be presented.

Conclusion: Findings from the interviews will be used to develop a web-based DA, providing young women with the support they require when making a choice about whether or not to have genetic testing. The DA will endeavour to enhance understanding, reduce uncertainty and support decision making.

Approval Confirm

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Presentation Oral
Previous BPOS conference Yes
In what capacity Poster only

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