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Multidisciplinary care in head and neck cancer in Spain: Results from the FETTCC National survey

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Background

Multidisciplinary management of HNC enhances survival and quality of life. The FETTCC mapped centers to assess care quality and identify areas for improvement.

Methods

A 39-item survey was distributed to be answered by a representative from each center, along with additional questions aimed at specialists in Otorhinolaryngology, Radiation Oncology, Maxillofacial Surgery, and Medical Oncology. It assessed multidisciplinary management, case data, and the available human and technological resources. The survey was sent via email on March 20, 2024, to all the specialist representatives for each center listed in the databases of the four societies, with a deadline of April 30, 2024. We present the results of the global survey on multidisciplinary care.

Results

Seventy global surveys were completed from 116 centers (60,3% completion rate). 98.6% of the centers have a multidisciplinary committee (MC), with patient involvement in 18.8% of cases. In 15.7% of centers, there is more than one MC, and 18.6% have a functional unit. 37.1% of centers treat HNC patients without prior MC evaluation. The composition of the MC can be seen in Table. 95.7% of centers have access to PET-CT, 94.3% have a nutritional support unit, 40% have geriatrics services, and 94.3% provide early palliative care. Specialized nursing is unavailable in 72.9% of centers.

Table: 1446eP

		N	%
Center Characteristics			
Patients/year	<2525-4950-100> 100	5 16 23 26	7,1 22,9 32,9 37,1
Multidisciplinary Team Characteristics			
Committee includes	Medical Oncology	69	98,6
	Otolaryngology	67	95,7
	Radiation Oncology	66	94,3
	Pathology	65	92,9
	Maxillofacial Surgery	65	92,9
	Nuclear Medicine	44	62,9
	Nutrition	39	55,7
	Nursing	32	45,7
	Plastic Surgery	15	21,4
	Palliative care	13	18,6
	Other * No multidisciplinary team	8	11,4
		15 1	21,4 1,4

		N	%
Other*	Dermatology	7	3
	Oftalmology	2	2
	Geriatrics	2	2
	Speech and language therapy	2	2
	Dentistry	2	2
	Psyconcology	2	2
	Social Work	1	1
	Anesthesiology	1	1
	Molecular Biology	1	1
	Pharmacy	1	1
	Physical Therapy	1	1
	Rehabilitation	1	1

Conclusions

HNC management is delivered by specialized multidisciplinary teams, with a critical need to incorporate less-represented support disciplines.

Legal entity responsible for the study

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Disclosure

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