MEETING INFORMATION NEEDS TOGETHER – STUDY PROTOCOL

L Bennett^1, D Bellamy^2, B Britton^7, V Graham^1, S Lambert^3, S McKendry, V Parker^4,5,6

1 John Hunter Hospital, New Lambton, NSW
2 HNE Cancer Network, New Lambton, NSW
3 McGill University, Montreal, Canada
4 University of New England, Armidale, NSW
5 Hunter New England Local Health District, Newcastle, NSW
6 University of Newcastle, Callaghan, NSW
7 Calvary Mater Newcastle, Waratah, NSW

Head and neck cancer in Australia accounted for 3.4% of all cancer diagnoses in 2009 (AIHW, 2014). Surgical treatment for this group of patients is significant, often radical and extensive and resultant in permanent dysfunction and/or disfigurement. Previous research has identified that information is not meeting the needs of these patients or their partner/carer, in particular it is non-specific and at times not given at the most appropriate time (Parker et al, 2014).

This presentation will discuss a randomized control trial protocol that aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a DVD/electronic patient education resource. In particular, measures include evaluating whether this patient education resource reduces levels of anxiety and depression in patients with head and neck cancer undergoing surgery.

Patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer will be randomly recruited into one of two groups, either intervention or treatment as usual. Both groups will be asked to complete a survey at three time points, whilst the intervention group will, in addition to usual treatment, receive the education resource. In addition, qualitative data will be collected from participants. This information will provide insight on how and when the education resource is used by the patient, partner or carer with the view to inform the implementation of the education resource into the model of care.

This study is the first to examine the impact of such an education resource as an intervention in patients with head and neck cancer. The randomized control trial will be implemented across three major Australian hospitals including the John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, Royal North Shore, Sydney and Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide.

References