Development of the MOST: an instrument to measure the subjective symptom benefit of palliative chemotherapy in women with recurrent ovarian cancer

Presentation by Madeleine King and Merryn Voysey

When: Friday 15th April 2010 3.30- 4.30pm

Where: NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre Medical Foundation Building Auditorium, Ground Floor, 92-94 Parramatta Road, Camperdown

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT
The objective of chemotherapy in women with platinum resistant recurrent ovarian cancer is palliation and symptom improvement. There is now international consensus that response rates alone are an inadequate measure of palliation and that a validated instrument to measure subjective improvement with chemotherapy is required.

In this presentation, we will describe work-in-progress on Stage 2 of the Symptom Benefit Study, a prospective, observational cohort study. Specifically, we will motivate and describe the development of the Measure of Ovarian Cancer Symptoms and Treatment Concerns (MOST);

-describe methods for determining the minimum clinically important symptom improvement on the scales of the MOST;
-describe methods for assessing key psychometric properties of the MOST, including discriminative validity, predictive validity, reliability, responsiveness to clinically important change.
-describe methods for validating the MOST against commonly used measures of health-related quality of life [EORTC core questionnaire QLQ-C30 and ovarian-specific module QLQ-OV28; Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy - Ovarian (FACT-O) and FACT-Ovarian Symptom Index (FOSI)], including convergent validity and relative responsiveness.

BIOGRAPHY
Merryn Voysey has worked as a biostatistician at the CTC since 2007, mainly in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular and perinatal studies. She holds a Masters in Biostatistics from the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia and has a diverse background which includes phase 1 and 2 pharmaceutical trials at a CRO, crime statistics data analysis for the Western Australian Police Service, and a previous career as a kitchen designer. This will be Merryn’s last presentation before leaving the CTC to take up a new position at the Centre for Statistics in Medicine at Oxford University.

Professor Madeleine King is the Cancer Australia Chair in Cancer Quality of Life. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Sydney and a PhD in Medical Statistics from the University of Newcastle, NSW. Her interests and experience cover a range of health research disciplines including biostatistics, epidemiology, psychometrics, health economics and clinical research (both medical and nursing), with applications in cancer, asthma and dementia. She now focuses on quality of life research in cancer, particularly within the ANZ network of cancer clinical trials groups. Her key research interests are the measurement, analysis and interpretation of health-related quality of life, utility and preferences, and other patient reported-outcomes.