Participant Information Leaflet

Radiation Oncology Clinical Practice For Older Adults With Cancer

Site	Online Survey https://nursingandmidwifery.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Ct6osC7BUy96dM
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Study Organiser/ Sponsor (if applicable)	NA
Data Controllers	**Trinity College Dublin**
Data Protection Officer	**Data Protection Officer** **Secretary's Office** **Trinity College Dublin** **Dublin 2**

You are being invited to take part in a research study investigating implementation of geriatric assessment (GA) in radiation oncology clinical practice.

Before you decide whether or not you wish to take part, please read this information sheet carefully. Don't feel rushed or under pressure to make a quick decision. You should understand the risks and benefits of taking part in this study so that you can make a decision that is right for you.

This leaflet has four main parts:

Part 1 – The Study
Part 2 – Data Protection
Part 3 – Costs, Funding and Approval
Part 4 – Further Information

Part 1 – The Study

Why is this study being done?

There is increasing evidence supporting the use of geriatric assessment (GA) to address the unique care needs of older patients with cancer. GA is a collection of validated tools to assess specific domains (e.g. physical function, comorbidities, cognition, social support, psychological status) known to be associated with poorer clinical outcomes.

We are doing this study to investigate radiation oncologist's awareness of guidelines regarding geriatric assessment (GA), clinical practice on the use of GA and perceptions of barriers to using GA when treating patients ≥ 65 years old with cancer.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you are a radiation oncologist providing care for older people with cancer aged 65 years and older, who does not reside in the US.

We are conducting an anonymous survey to evaluate your experience of using GA in clinical practice (or not), awareness of guidelines and any barriers that you perceive to be in place regarding implementation of GA.

Do I have to take part? Can I withdraw?

You don't have to take part in this study. Your participation is voluntary. As the survey is anonymous, there will be no ability to identify who does, or does not, take part.

What happens if I change my mind?

You may withdraw at any time by not completing the survey. If you do withdraw, you will not be penalised. However, it will not be possible to withdraw from the study after submitting your responses. As the evaluation is anonymous it will not be possible to identify your contribution and remove it.

How will the study be carried out?

The study will take place during May and June of 2021. It will be conducted online via an anonymous survey distributed using Qualitrics software. Therefore you may complete it at a time and location of convenience for you on a smartphone, iPad, desktop, laptop etc.

What will happen to me if I decide to take part?

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey. You will be provided with a link to the anonymous online survey. You will not be asked for your name or contact details. The survey should take you no longer than ten minutes to complete.

The survey will take 10 minutes in total to complete. It will ask you about your professional characteristics, awareness of the ASCO and NCCN practice guidelines, whether older patients in your care are assessed and/or treated differently compared to younger patients when making treatment decisions and the frequency of using GA using validated tools in clinical practice. Finally, questions about perceived barriers to performing a GA for older patients will be explored, including resource limitations, perceived value of the GA, and perceived validity of existing GA tools.

What will happen to my data?

The data from this project will not be shared with others and will be used for the purposes outlined in this study only. As it is anonymous, it will not be possible to identify individual study participants. Information from the study may be used in a future research publication.

Are there any benefits to taking part in this research?

Taking part in this study may not directly benefit you. However, research performed with your information may help us to better understand implementation of GA in radiation oncology clinical practice and application of guidelines.

Are there any risks to me or others if I take part?

There are no known risks to taking part in this study. No personal data or IP addresses will be collected, so responses cannot be traced back to you.

Part 2 – Data Protection

What information about me (personal data) will be used as part of this study?

No personal data will be collected.

What will happen to my personal data?

Your identity and responses will remain anonymous. We will not be collecting any personal data and all responses will remain anonymous. Responses will not be analysed individually. All responses will be analysed collectively. Upon completion of the project, the data will be kept for a period of seven years and then destroyed.

Who will access and use my personal data as part of this study?

Only the lead researcher, Anita O'Donovan, will have access to the raw data. Summarised anonymous responses will be sent to the research team for review.

Will my personal data be kept confidential? How will my data be kept safe?

No personal data will be collected.

Part 3 – Costs, Funding and Approval

Has this study been approved by a research ethics committee?

Ethical approval has been granted for this project from the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee, Trinity College Dublin.

Who is organising and funding this study? Will the results be used for commercial purposes?

No funding has been secured for this study. Results will not be used for commercial purposes.

Is there any payment for taking part? Will it cost me anything if I agree to take part?

No, we are not paying participants to take part in the study. There are no associated costs.

Part 4 – Further Information

Who should I contact for information or complaints?

If you have any concerns or questions, you can contact:

- Lead Researcher: Dr. Anita O'Donovan anita.odonovan@tcd.ie
- Data Protection Officer, Trinity College Dublin: Data Protection Officer, Secretary's Office, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. Email: dataprotection@tcd.ie. Website: www.tcd.ie/privacy.

Under GDPR, if you are not satisfied with how your data is being processed, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Data Protection Commission, 21 Fitzwilliam Square South, Dublin 2, Ireland. Website: www.dataprotection.ie