

# What is the role of psychological factors in nausea during cancer therapy?

November 13 2015

---

A study in the current issue of *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics* sheds new light on the relationship between psychological factors and nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy of cancer.

Chemotherapy-induced [nausea](#) and vomiting (CINV) continue to be a distressing problem still reported by [cancer patients](#), with [negative consequences](#) on quality of life (QoL). The Authors aimed to prospectively explore the association of psychosocial variables, including [emotional distress](#), maladaptive coping styles and the doctor-patient relationship, with CINV and QoL among cancer outpatients. A prospective study was conducted on 302 consecutive cancer patients (response rate 80.9%) in Austria, Italy and Spain.

The Distress Thermometer (DT), the Mini-Mental Adjustment to Cancer (Mini-MAC), and the Patient Satisfaction with Doctor Questionnaire (PSQ) were used to assess psychosocial variables before chemotherapy. In the 5 days after chemotherapy, CINV was examined by using a daily diary, and the Functional Living Index for Emesis (FLIE) was used to assess QoL. Results show that more than half of the patients reported nausea (54%), and a small percentage reported vomiting (14%). CINV had a negative impact on QoL (FLIE caseness, p

The Authors concluded that screening and assessment of psychological variables, especially coping, could help in identifying cancer patients at risk for chemotherapy-induced nausea, in spite of the use of antiemetic treatment.

**More information:** Luigi Grassi et al. Role of Psychosocial Variables on Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting and Health-Related Quality of Life among Cancer Patients: A European Study, *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics* (2015). [DOI: 10.1159/000431256](https://doi.org/10.1159/000431256)

Provided by Journal of Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics

Citation: What is the role of psychological factors in nausea during cancer therapy? (2015, November 13) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-11-role-psychological-factors-nausea-cancer.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.