

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND EXPECTATIONS OF TREATMENT DECISIONS AMONG EUROPEAN PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS**

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**Objective and methods:** The Silent Voice Survey, performed in 2009, explored access to and quality of information sources and expectations of treatment decisions in 252 prostate cancer (PCa) patients from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Poland.

**Results:** Over 70% of respondents were aged >65 years in Spain and Poland versus 54–58% in the other countries. In Italy, 70% received hormone therapy for PCa versus only 26% in France. Most had received information about PCa (80%) and rated their specialist as the most useful information source (76%). The majority rated as “very informative” the information they received about their condition (57%), prognosis (44%) and treatment options (50%). However, German patients typically rated this information as “somewhat informative” and rated websites rather than their general practitioner as the second most useful information source. Most German (78%) and French (82%) patients would prefer to be involved in treatment decision-making, whereas Spanish and Italian patients (56% each) would prefer their physician to decide. Besides therapeutic efficacy, side effects and impact on lifestyle were ranked as the most important factors that physicians should address when making treatment decisions (82%) rather than treatment costs. Of the 40% of patients who ranked impact on lifestyle as the most important factor, 28% had never discussed lifestyle issues with their physician.

**Conclusion:** There are between-country differences in terms of PCa information received and patient expectations of treatment decisions, which should be considered when discussing PCa education and treatment options with patients.

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