

Here & Now healthcare professional (HCP) survey

Key findings

This document captures key findings from the pan-European HCP survey. Please refer to the strategic guidance and supporting media materials for information on how to maximise these findings as part of your Here & Now campaign. Where applicable, you may wish to supplement these findings with local advanced breast cancer (ABC) statistics to add further context.

Survey summary

Novartis Oncology conducted the pan-European healthcare professional survey to uncover the unmet needs in treating and caring for women with ABC from a HCP perspective, as well as identifying any support gaps that may need to be addressed in the clinical community. By furthering awareness of these areas, and applying this new information, our aim is to improve the level of care and support for patients and ultimately patient outcomes, working together with the breast cancer community.

Key themes explored by this research include:

Current challenges in treating ABC patients

- Quality of information and resources
- Patient understanding of ABC
- Time demands
- Effectiveness of multidisciplinary teams
- The societal isolation of women with ABC

Healthcare professional needs

- The emotional impact treating patients with ABC can have on HCPs
- Availability of training and support

- Research was conducted in **eight** countries across Europe via an online survey consisting of **20 closed questions**. For each country the research included a split of approximately **50% oncologists** and **50% breast cancer nurses**, though there were slight variations across countries.
- Total number of survey respondents: **327** (134 oncologists/haematologists + 32 gynaecologists + 161 breast cancer nurses).

Should you have any questions relating to the survey results in your country, please contact a member of the Region Europe Here & Now team using the contact details provided at the end of this document.

Current challenges in treating ABC patients

Perceptions

- **Almost 40%** (38%) (Q1a) of HCPs surveyed believe the **greatest unmet need** for patients living with advanced breast cancer is the **availability of emotional/psychological support**.
- **Over a quarter** (26%) (Q1b) of nurses and oncologists believe that the **greatest challenge** for patients living with ABC is **time available for consultations**.
- HCPs surveyed think that between **41–60%** (Q2) of ABC patients do not fully understand the implication of their ABC diagnosis.

Information on ABC

- HCPs say that **61–80%** (Q4) of their patients request information about ABC.
- **Only 63%** (Q3a) of HCPs have **support materials available** for ABC patients, of which, **94%** (Q3b) of HCPs provide support information as a **leaflet or brochure** whereas **less than half** (46%) (Q3b) use **online resources**.
- According to HCPs, the most common requests from patients are for information on **managing side effects** (85%) (Q5), **treatment options** (85%) (Q5) and **coping emotionally** (73%) (Q5).

Patient wellbeing

- **Three in ten** (Q5) of the HCPs surveyed say that ABC has an **extremely high impact** on their **patient's emotional wellbeing**.
- **Over 60%** (61%) (Q10) of the HCPs surveyed **agree** that patients with ABC often feel **socially isolated**.

Consultation time

- **Just over half** (51%) (Q7) of oncologists feel that they have **sufficient time** with their patients at the time of initial diagnosis; however, for **nurses in Europe** this is **much higher**, **68%** (Q7) feel they **do not have enough time** during these consultations.
- HCPs think that having **more time** to discuss a patient's condition would make patients living with ABC feel **better informed** (75%) (Q8) and **listened to** (74%) (Q8).
- For HCPs in Europe, the **majority of consultation time** is spent discussing **test results** (39%) (Q9) and available **treatment options** (24%) (Q9).

Cancer registries

- It is mandatory in **over half** (53%) (Q12a) of the countries surveyed to provide details of ABC patients to cancer registries.
- However, cancer registries are inconsistently used across Europe, **53%** (Q12b) of those HCPs surveyed **do not provide details** of patients with ABC **to cancer registries**.
- **Over 70%** (74%) (Q11) of HCPs surveyed **agree** that dedicated cancer registries would be useful for ABC.

Healthcare professional needs

Emotional impact

- **Over 80%** (82%) (Q13a) of HCPs say that treating ABC patients **impacts on them emotionally**.
- **Almost 60%** (58%) (Q13b) of **nurses** often **feel sadness** as a result of treating ABC patients and **over half** (53%) (Q13b) often **experience helplessness**. Overall, treating ABC patients makes **51%** (Q13b) of HCPs feel **motivated**.

Training and support

- **Over 65%** (Q14) of nurses and oncologists feel that **adequate support** is **not** available to help them with the **emotional impact** of treating ABC patients. Whereas **two thirds of nurses** (Q15) surveyed **had attended** training or received support on managing the psychological or emotional support needs of patients, **55% of oncologists** (Q15) have **not attended** such training.
- **Almost 90%** (88%) (Q16) of HCPs in Europe would like **further training**.

International consensus guidelines

- **Only 49%** (Q18) of **nurses** in Europe are **aware of the international consensus guidelines** for ABC compared to **76%** (Q18) of **oncologists**. Of those that are aware of the guidelines **nearly 90%** (87%) (Q19) agree that they adhere to these.
- **Almost 100%** (96%) (Q20a) of HCPs surveyed **agree** that a **multidisciplinary team** approach **improves the level of care** for patients with ABC. Across Europe, **74%** (Q20b) of the HCPs surveyed work as part of a **multidisciplinary team**.
- **Over 60%** (Q17) of the HCPs surveyed stated that if patients had more time **discussing the disease with their oncologist** (67%) **or nurse** (60%) as well as **improved information** on what to expect from the disease (60%) and **improved communication** and continuity of care between all professionals involved in patient treatment and care it would make the **biggest difference** to their lives.

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