

QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED BLADDER CANCER PATIENTS**PROMOTOR**

Maurice Zeegers

ABOUT THE SUPERVISORS:

Maurice Zeegers is professor of Complex Genetics & Epidemiology. He is ranked among the top5 bladder cancer epidemiologist worldwide. He serves as head of CAPHRI and the department of Complex Genetics. His main interest is in Cancer Epidemiology and Nutrition and Genetics.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH GROUP

The studentship will be embedded within the team of prof. dr. Maurice Zeegers. During the last decade, Maurice and his team have built a strong research line on bladder cancer epidemiology. This has led to over 70 publications on this topic.

WORK FIELD OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Cancer Epidemiology.

ESTIMATED DURATION

3 year fulltime or 2 year part-time.

SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND

Quality of life has been a focal point of discussing in recent years, especially in relation to cancer and the treatment thereof. Although much discussed not nearly as much research has been done, even though this research is very valuable for clinicians and patients. Even more so in a disease as bladder cancer as survival for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) is high, and these patients will need to live with acceptable HRQoL for many years. The prospective student investigates HRQoL in 1258 muscle invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) and NMIBC patients participating in the Bladder Cancer Prognosis Programme.

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION, SUBQUESTIONS AND AIM(S)

The PhD candidate will be supervised to write 5 scientific papers on:

- The quality of life of bladder cancer patients undergoing incontinent and continent urinary diversion techniques: a meta-analysis
- Health-related quality of life around time of diagnosis in bladder cancer patients

- The effect of baseline quality of life on bladder cancer survival
- Validation of the EORTC QLQ-NMIBC24, a quality of life questionnaire for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer patients
- Patients choose certainty over burden in surveillance for bladder cancer recurrence

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

The analyses will be performed in a long term prospective multicentre programme of bladder cancer research. The Bladder Cancer Prognosis Programme (BCPP) consists of a follow-up study of bladder cancer patients recruited via 10 urology centres in the West Midlands. BCPP has so far recruited 1551 bladder cancer patients since its initiation in 2005.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Pilot work has been performed. The PhD candidate will be involved in data-analyses and writing-up.

EXPECTED RESULTS

PhD Degree in Epidemiology.

COMPETENCES THE APPLICANT NEEDS TO HAVE OR ACQUIRE FOR THE PROJECT

Msc in Epidemiology and fluency in English.