Patients' experiences of lung cancer

Insights from Bulgaria

GLOBAL LUNG CANCER COALITION

Introduction

The Global Lung Cancer Coalition (GLCC), an alliance of 42 patient organisations from 30 countries across the world, wanted to understand the challenges patients are currently facing, to inform its patient advocacy work and the work of its member organisations.

In February 2023, the GLCC commissioned Censuswide to conduct a survey of lung cancer patients.

The survey received **712 responses** from patients across **14 countries**. For more information about the global findings, please visit www.lungcancercoalition.org/surveys.

Key findings from Bulgaria

Demographics

52

lung cancer patients responded

67% identified as male, **33%** identified as female

65% had non-small cell lung cancer

67%

were diagnosed in the last **five years**

Biomarker testing

- **44%** of respondents **had received** biomarker testing
- **29%** were **unsure** if they had been tested

Of those who had been tested:

- **48% knew** what biomarker their cancer had
- **17% did not know**

These results suggest a moderate uptake of biomarker testing among respondents, and that there remains **a substantial gap in communication between patients and treatment teams**

Patient preferences about receiving information

The **majority** of respondents said they **prefer face-to-face appointments when finding out their diagnosis,** but preferences for video, telephone, or face-to-face conversations varied markedly depending on the situation, suggesting that **treatment teams should look to understand and accommodate individual patient preferences as much as possible**

Patient involvement in decision making

Only 25% of respondents said they felt **fully involved in decisions** about their treatment and care. While patient preferences for involvement will differ, **treatment teams should ensure patients have the opportunity to be involved** in decision-making as much as they would like

Call to action

The GLCC is calling for the implementation in Bulgaria of the rights set out in its Patient Charter, to ensure that all lung cancer patients have access to quality healthcare; informed self-determination, which includes involvement in decision-making; and physical and mental integrity.

More information

The GLCC member in Bulgaria is:

- **APOZ:** www.oncobg.info

For more information about this survey and the work of the GLCC, please visit our website: https://www.lungcancercoalition.org/ or email our secretariat at: glcc@roycastle.org