Symptom Clusters in Patients With Pancreatic Cancer Undergoing Surgical Resection: Part II

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Patients with pancreatic cancer (PC) experience a wide range of symptoms as a result of the cancer itself and its treatments. Commonly reported PC symptoms include fatigue, pain, weight loss, nausea, anorexia, constipation, diarrhea, trouble digesting food, insomnia, depression, anxiety, and symptoms of diabetes (Huang et al., 2000; Noquez, 2008; Reyes-Gibby et al., 2007; Sun et al., 2008; Yeo et al., 2012). Patients with PC were found to experience some of the highest levels of psychological distress, fatigue, and pain when compared to patients with other cancer types (Carlson et al., 2004; Noquez, 2008; Zabora, BrintzenhofeSzoc, Curbow, Hooker, & Piantadosi, 2001). Evidence suggests that symptoms rarely occur alone; in fact, patients undergoing surgical resection for PC experience, on average, 5-10 symptoms simultaneously (Yeo et al., 2012).

The presence or severity of symptom clusters (SCs) has been found to be influenced by several demographic and clinical factors: age, gender, race/ethnicity, marital status,