

Patients' experiences of abemaciclib plus endocrine therapy (ET) in adjuvant treatment of HR⁺, HER2⁻, node-positive, high-risk, early breast cancer (EBC): a preliminary qualitative interview study Helena Harder, Val Jenkins, Lesley Fallowfield

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BACKGROUND

- Abemaciclib+ET approved in 2022 as adjuvant therapy for EBC with high risk of recurrence
- Diarrhoea is common side effect (SE)¹, particularly in first few months of treatment (83.5% vs 9% in ET only)2
- Real-world data on patients' experience and management of SEs in EBC setting are lacking

** METHODS & PARTICIPANTS

- Observational longitudinal qualitative study exploring treatment perceptions, expectations and experiences
- 3 semi-structured interviews: before treatment, and at 4 and 8 weeks
- 5 EBC patients (aged 54-76) participated
- 15 interviews analysed using framework approach

A RESULTS

I've been quite fortunate to be given the my main concerns are, I've gone from drug in a way, because it is known to reduce taking one drug ... to take 12 tablets a day, the recurrence ... that's really what I want which I find it quite overwhelming, I dread it because I know I'm going to feel a bit unwell afterwards probably talk to somebody if you're beliefs & worried about the side the diarrhoea bothers me, it effects, which I have done concerns hurts and I was sore ... it creates lack of energy as well, so that's definitely been diarrhoea I've nothing but praise for the the worst one advice from fatigue, ET staff [they] are very attentive, & for others they're very caring, they related SEs answer all my questions it's the hot flushes, which I actually didn't have when I went through the menopause TREATMENT I'm surprised, I read all the official documentation ... I was getting up out of a chair slightly worried before starting, expectations managing definitely, in my hips, I just feel but I've been very pleased that SEs & like an old lady VS it's not really affected me that much, and when it does, I can adherence experiences manage it impact on I'm eating less, because daily life ... well the less I put in, the less to come out my whole life has changed, I don't I carried on taking go anywhere or do anything ... I those [loperamide], if know it doesn't affect everyone like the diarrhoea was it's affected me, but there's no way bad, then I took two that I could have gone to work I've persevered even though I do go out and about ... had quite

CONCLUSIONS

a lot of holidays, we do meet

friends, so just the normal stuff

This study provides initial insights in treatment perceptions and experiences. Patients' accounts of their experiences and impact of related SEs on functioning and well-being vary. Further research in the adjuvant setting is needed.







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there were times when I

thought 'why am I doing this to

my body?'