

## P270 - Which Physical and Social Problems Predict Distress in Ethnically Diverse Cancer Patients: Comparison of two Cultural Groups

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**OBJECTIVES** Distress is well documented in cancer settings but its underlying predictors are less understood. We examined 32 potential predictors of distress in a large sample of British White (BW) and British South Asian (BSA) (largely Indian) according to self-rated ethnicity.

**METHODS** We analyzed data collected from Leicester Cancer Centre from 2008-2009 involving approximately 1000 people approached by a research nurse and two therapeutic radiographers. In this dataset there were 277 BW and 80 BSA individuals.

Patients completed the Emotional Thermometer (ET) tool and a problem list. 95% BSA completed the questionnaires in English; the remaining completed a Gujarati version (back to back translation).

**RESULTS** Using a checklist locally adapted from the distress thermometer, in the larger group, work/school issues; mouth sores, nose dry/congestion, faith, pain and sleep were associated with distress. In the ethnic minority group only mouth sores, issues with God and problems getting around were significant. Surprisingly most checklist items were not predictive of distress.

### Predictors in All Patients

Predictors	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig	R	Exp(B)
<i>work/school</i>	1.1190	0.3122	12.8500	1	0.0003	0.1316	3.0619
<i>God</i>	1.1250	0.3674	9.3751	1	0.0022	0.1085	3.0802
<i>faith</i>	1.2330	0.5380	5.2514	1	0.0219	0.0720	3.4315
<i>Pain</i>	0.6763	0.2344	8.3260	1	0.0039	0.1005	1.9665
<i>Sleep</i>	0.4849	0.2309	4.4093	1	0.0357	0.0620	1.6240
<i>breathing</i>	-0.7144	0.3338	4.5798	1	0.0324	-0.0642	.4895
<i>Mouth sores</i>	1.3983	0.3249	18.5281	1	0.0000	0.1624	4.0484
<i>Nose congestion</i>	0.9932	0.3241	9.3910	1	0.0022	0.1086	2.7000

**CONCLUSIONS** There appear to be significant differences in the influence of physical and social complaints on perceived distress according to ethnicity. Many items were not predictive. Our results could be influenced by low sample size in the minority group.

Interestingly in all groups mouth sores were most predictive of distress

**CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS** A specific list of concerns may be warranted if eliciting unmet needs in ethnically diverse groups

### Predictors in BSA

Predictors	Wald	df	Sig
<i>God</i>	4.478	1	0.0343
<i>Getting around</i>	4.269	1	0.0388
<i>Mouth sores</i>	7.288	1	0.0069

### Predictors in White Caucasian

Predictors	Wald	df	Sig
<i>work/school</i>	16.276	1	0.0001
<i>faith</i>	5.671	1	0.0172
<i>Pain</i>	4.978	1	0.0257
<i>Sleep</i>	4.514	1	0.0336
<i>Mouth sores</i>	14.916	1	0.0001
<i>Nose dry/congestion</i>	9.979	1	0.0016

