

P573- Do Disease or Cultural Variables Influence Perceived Distress in Cancer? A Path analysis of Predictors from an Ethnically Diverse UK Setting

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OBJECTIVES Despite much research describing distress there is relatively little on predictors of distress. Here we aim to examine basic disease, demographic and cultural predictors of distress. Distress was patient rated by the Distress Thermometer (DT) and analysis adjustment for all suspected interactions between predictors using Path analysis technique (AMOS5).

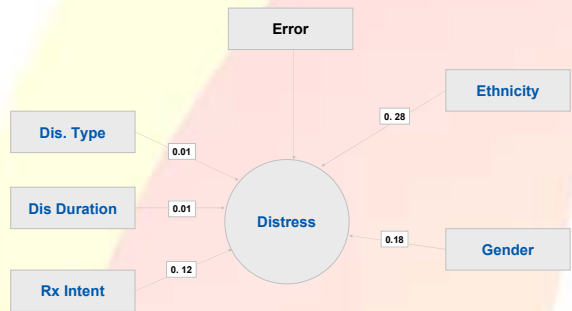
METHODS We analysed data collected from Leicester Cancer Centre from 2008-2009 involving approximately 1000 people approached by a research nurse and two therapeutic radiographers. Of those approached we collected data on 469 presentations, that is people seen up to three times over 9 months during treatment for cancer. We had complete data on 444. We examined the following factors: treatment intent (radical vs palliative), gender, ethnicity, cancer type, cancer duration.

RESULTS After adjustment for internal inter-correlations, the most powerful independent predictor was ethnicity (estimate = 0.284; $p < 0.001$), followed by gender (estimate = 0.175; $p < 0.001$).

Treatment intent (a proxy for cancer stage) had a small influence (estimate = 0.122; $p < 0.05$). Disease type and duration were not appreciable influences

CONCLUSIONS In our clinically representative diverse sample, severity of distress appears to be related more to ethnicity and gender than disease related variables. Further work is required to understand why cultural variables strongly influence distress.

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS Distress appears to be significantly influenced by cultural variables (ethnicity) more than disease variables. Future studies should consider measuring ethnicity in cancer populations.



			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
DISTRESS	<---	INTENT	0.122	0.06	2.038	0.042
DISTRESS	<---	GENDER	-0.175	0.054	-3.219	0.001
DISTRESS	<---	ETHNIC	0.284	0.053	5.391	***
DISTRESS	<---	DIAGNOSI	-0.01	0.005	-2.104	0.035
DISTRESS	<---	DURATION	0.009	0.004	2.132	0.033

