

PRE-TREATMENT QUALITY OF LIFE IN CANCER PATIENTS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN FUNDACIÓN SANTA FE DE BOGOTÁ DATA AND INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE VALUES

De Castro Botero, Tatiana - Head of Outcomes Measurement Unit

INTRODUCTION

Quality of Life (QoL) is a critical aspect in cancer patients' experience. The variety of symptoms and intricate treatment processes can lead to physical and emotional suffering, impacting global well-being and functionality. This study compared pretreatment quality of life perceptions in colorectal, lung and pancreatic cancer patients at Fundación Santa Fe de Bogota, with The European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) reference values for comparable patient groups.

METHODS

- Patients at Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá with colorectal, pancreatic, and lung cancer were recruited before initiating oncological treatment, either by telephone or in person, for the administration QLQ C30 core cancer quality of life questionnaire.
- For the comparative analysis between Fundación Santa Fe de Bogota's patients' scores and EORTC benchmark data, the reference values manual of this organization was utilized (1). Only data pertinent to comparable groups of patients (colorectal, pancreas, and lung cancer) was considered.

RESULTS

Two hundred and one patients (130 of colorectal cancer, 34 of pancreas cancer and 37 of lung cancer) from Fundación Santa Fe de Bogota completed the QLQ-C30 questionnaire before initiating oncologic treatment. Overall, patients across all three groups reported higher perception of Global Health Status scale (QoL), and scored higher on the physical, role, emotional, cognitive, and social functionality scales compared to reference EORTC values for patients with the same diagnoses. In colorectal and pancreatic patients, role functioning had the highest score, surpassing EORTC values by 18 points. In lung patients, the Global Health Status scale (QoL) scored the highest, exceeding the expected value for the EORTC group of lung patients by 13.7 points.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 evidence comparison of mean baseline scores for Global health status (QoL) and Functional scales of QLQ -C30 in Cancer patients at Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, against corresponding EORTC reference values.

Figure 1. Colorectal Cancer

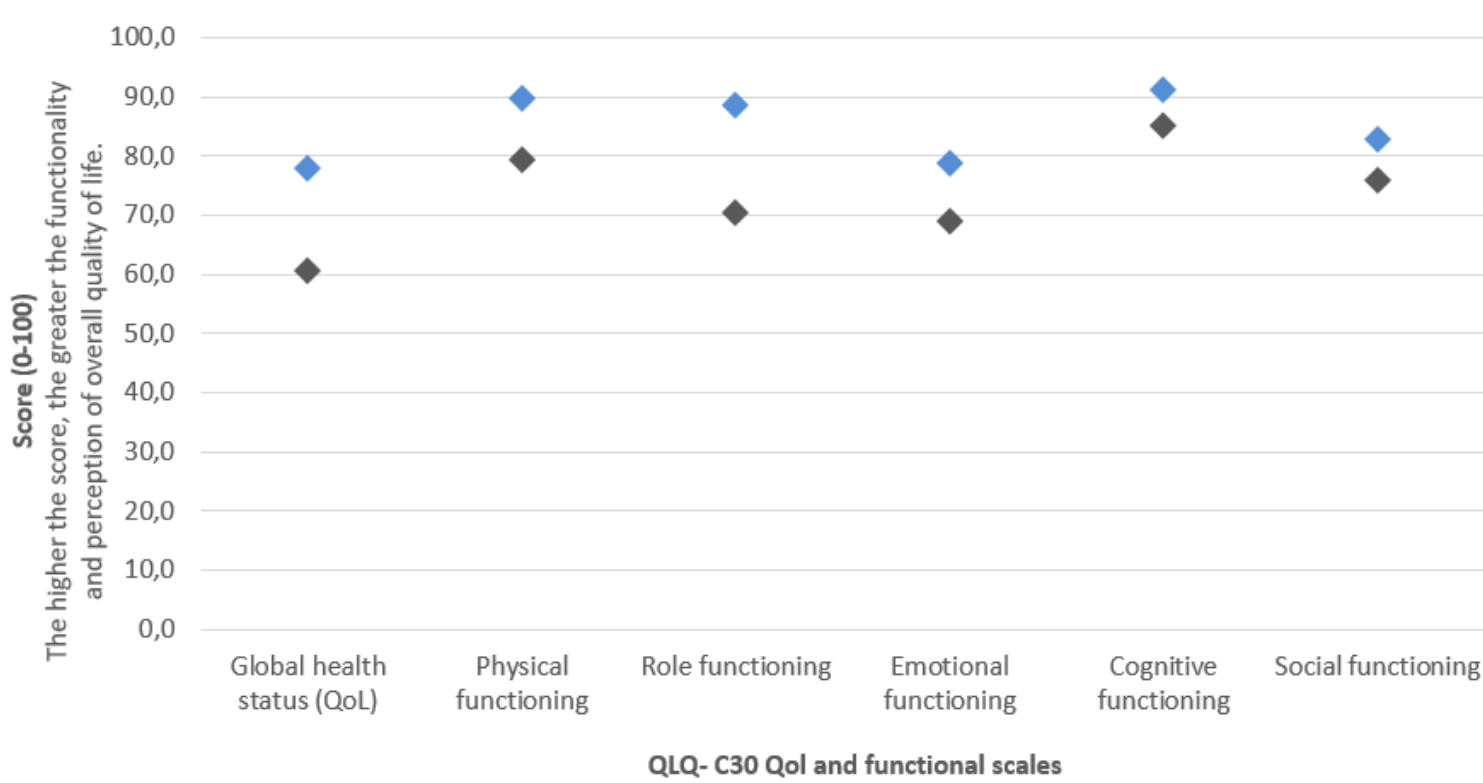


Figure 2. Pancreatic Cancer

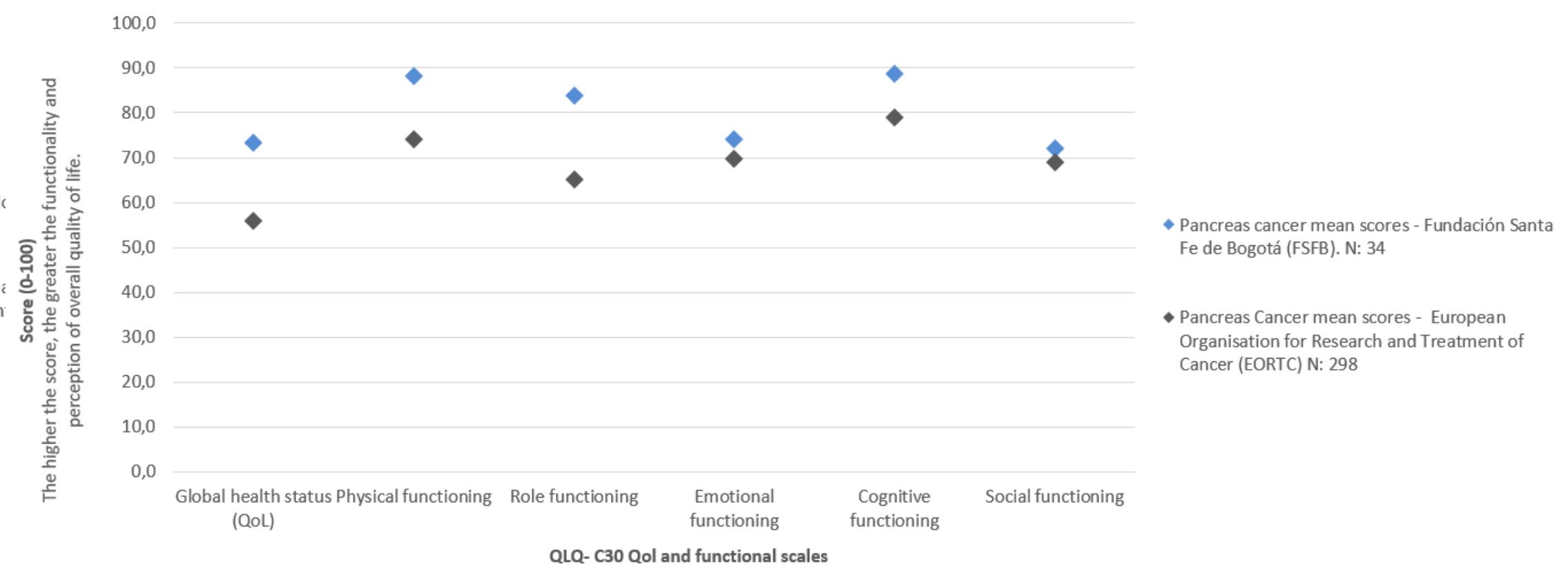
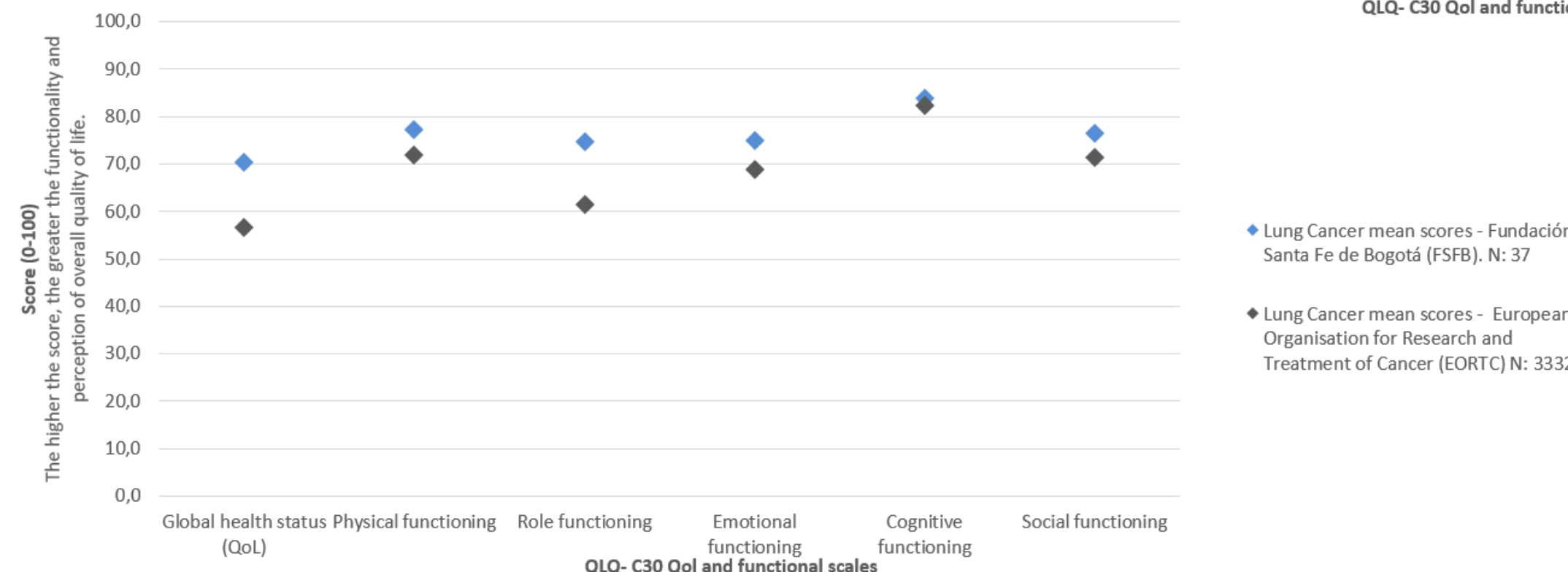


Figure 3. Lung Cáncer



CONCLUSIONS

Differences in the perception of quality of life among patients at Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, in comparison to the international reference values proposed by EORTC, emphasize the significance of characterizing our cancer population in terms of quality of life and functionality before treatment initiation. This enables us to establish starting points adjusted to our patients' psychosocial needs and preferences, guiding subsequent clinical treatment more effectively, and ultimately enhancing the overall health experience for patients facing cancer.

(1) EORTC Quality of Life Group. (2008). EORTC QLQ-C30 reference values manual.