

## Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme

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Advanced ovarian cancer and parenteral nutrition: views and experiences of patients, carers and staff

Duration of project: 24 months

Start Date: 01/06/2016

Budget: £131,440.05

### **Abstract**

#### **Background**

Bowel obstruction occurs frequently in advanced ovarian cancer affecting between 20-50% patients and has a substantial impact on quality of life. Individuals with bowel obstruction may be unable to maintain adequate oral nutrition and hydration, and intravenous feeding referred to as parenteral nutrition (PN) may be used. Patients will be started on PN as an inpatient, but then may go home on the treatment. Currently, there is uncertainty as to the role of PN in women with ovarian cancer in palliation care. This research will address the decision making process around home PN, and the views and experiences of women and their carers of PN.

#### **Aims**

- Explore current practice in the provision of PN in women with advanced ovarian cancer receiving palliative or end of life care.
- Investigate the barriers and facilitators within the multidisciplinary team that influence decision making to instigate PN
- Determine the views and experiences of women and their families.

#### **Methods**

Ten advanced ovarian cancer patients who are who are receiving PN for bowel obstruction will be interviewed at 3 time points about their experiences of the treatment; once whilst they are an inpatient and twice at home. Women will be asked to nominate an informal carer (family member or friend) who will be interviewed at similar intervals about their experience of their relative receiving PN. The health care professionals involved with the decision making for or patient's treatment with PN will also be interviewed. Although, 3 interviews will be carried out with health care professionals for each patient this is likely to be with 3 different individuals.

**Results**

Thematic analysis of the data will be undertaken utilising NVivo 10.

**Implications**

It is envisaged that data from the study will be used inform the decision making process of doctors and patients with ovarian cancer considering PN.