

Testicular Cancer prosthesis: understanding current practices of health professionals' and patients' views and experiences

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Background:

Previous studies indicate that approximately a quarter of men with testicular cancer will opt for a testicular prosthesis for reasons including concerns over body image, future relationships and appearance¹⁻⁴. However, little is known about UK health care professionals' practices and views in terms of how and at what point a prosthesis is discussed with patients. Men's views have also received relatively little attention.

Research questions:

- To explore current practice and views among UK health professionals who care for men with testicular cancer.
- To explore men's experiences and views regarding prosthesis.
- To inform best practice guidelines to promote informed decision-making regarding prosthesis, in particular how information and support for men making decisions regarding whether or not to have a prosthesis could be optimised, such as through the development of a prototype decision aid, if deemed necessary.

Methods:

A mixed methods design will be employed. This will involve

Health Professional- online survey

- An online survey of approximately 120 surgeons, oncologists and clinical nurse specialists who would normally discuss prostheses with testicular cancer patients will be conducted.

Patients – online survey

- A postal survey to approximately 500 testicular cancer patients using the Thames Valley germ cell database, including those who have a prosthesis and those without. The survey will assess quality of life after testicular cancer including impact on sexual relationships, body image, wellbeing, decision regret and views towards prosthesis.
- Validated measures will include; Testicular cancer-specific quality of life (EORTC QLQ 30 and selected items on TC26 module); The Decision Regret Scale (Brehaut, 2003); Body Image Scale (Hopwood 2001); K6 Distress Scale (Kessler et al, 2002)

Qualitative interviews

- A sub-sample of survey respondents (n=35 patients and n=15 health professionals) will be invited to participate in an in-depth telephone interview to generate a deeper understanding of the topic.
- Interview data will be analysed using Thematic Analysis.

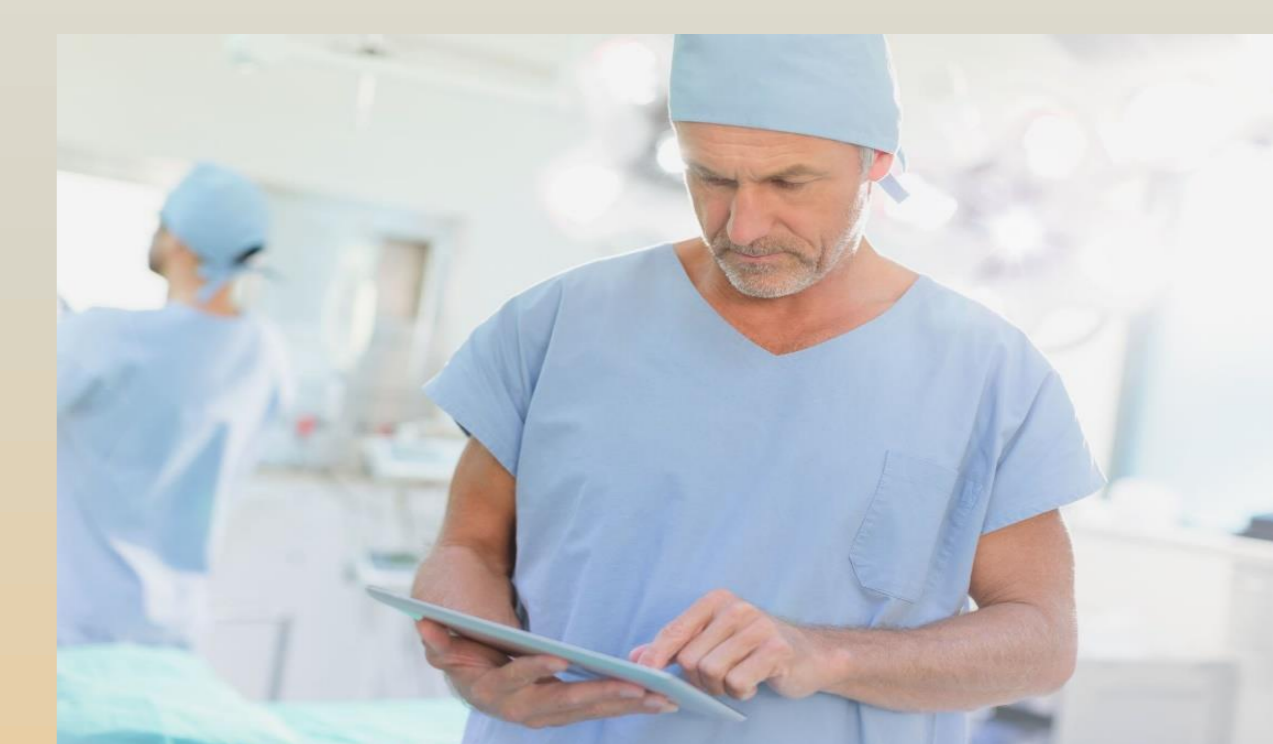


Results:

- The study is currently undergoing R&D NHS ethical review. Recruitment is planned to commence in **March 2021**. **If you are a health professional who are involved in the care of men with testicular cancer, and you would be interested in completing our short online survey (and/or telephone interview) please contact Dr Lauren Matheson to register your interest: l.matheson@brookes.ac.uk**

Conclusions:

- Findings will inform how support and information given to testicular cancer patients regarding prostheses could be optimised in the future.
- In particular, findings will inform ways of helping men decide whether or not to have a prosthesis, such as a decision aid.



References

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