Clinical personality patterns in patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia waiting for bone marrow transplantation

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Introduction
Personality disorders are rather widespread in oncology settings demanding special attention of clinician. Serious illness threatening person’s life as well as severe treatment and side effects lead to specific self-regulatory emotional and cognitive efforts. Personality could both play an important role in this process predicting adjustment and survival and change in line with illness pathogenesis.

Objectives
The personality patterns could be important predictors of operation success and further adjustment for patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) waiting for bone marrow transplantation.

Aim
To reveal personality patterns specific for patients with ALL.

Methods
Twenty-five patients with ALL (11 males, 37.4 ± 9.5 years old) filled Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory–III and Big Five Questionnaire–2. Comparison group included 180 people of the same age and gender without history of mental or severe somatic disorders.

Results
Male patients comparing to healthy males were lower on emotional control and higher in negativistic personality pattern (P < .05). Female patients were higher on dynamism but lower in openness to culture and antisocial pattern (P < .05). They rarely expressed patterns of borderline disorder and drug dependence but reported more compulsive traits (P < .05).

Conclusions
Severe illness could increase likelihood of emotion regulation difficulties and passive-aggressive coping in male patients while stimulate activity and compulsive behaviour in females. These patterns should be taken into account in psychological support of patients to bone marrow transplantation.

Disclosure of interest
The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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Low income deteriorates quality of life in early breast cancer survivors

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Background
Patients who have survived cancer and have lower socio-economic status, are more likely to leave the workforce. Financial problems are widespread among many of the breast cancer survivors, but their effect on the quality of life are not sufficiently explored. The aim of this study is to assess the effect of low income onto quality of life in early breast cancer survivors.

Methods
In this study, 214 consecutive early female breast cancer patients, with mean age of 60 years (range 30–90), were interviewed for psycho-social aspects, depression (MINI) and quality of life (EORTC QLQ-Core 30 and BR-23). All patients were cancer free at the moment of interview and all initial oncological treatments were