East and North Hertfordshire

NADA & Cancer Survivorship

Research and service development for breast cancer, prostate cancer and hospital staff



Photos courtesy of NADA UK

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Growing service development from research



From the seed of research...





Using acupuncture to manage hot flushes & night sweats in women taking tamoxifen for early breast cancer: two observational studies (de Valois 2007, unpublished PhD thesis)

... To service development

- NADA for breast cancer treatment related hot flushes & night sweats
- Commenced 2005
- Evaluated in 2015 10 years service
- 271 referrals
- 213 paperwork
- 145 service users evaluated



10-year service evaluation

- What outcomes do service users report?
- How do these compare to our research findings?
- Hypothesis: research participants do better than service users



Results: frequency

- Mean numbers of hot flushes per day:
 - 11.3 for Service Users (SU)
 - 10.5 for Research Participants (RP)
- Reductions in both groups significant at all points
- No significant differences between groups at each time point

Comparison of Mean % Reduction in Hot Flush Frequency					
Change over baseline at		N =	Mean % Reduction	95% Cl Lower	95% Cl Upper
EOT	SU	137	42.8	37.3	47.9
	RP	47	35.9	25.4	45.4
EOT+4	SU	116	46.8	39.1	53.4
	RP	45	37.5	25.4	47.6
EOT+18	SU	99	44.8	32.5	54.8
	RP	38	37.1	24.8	47.4

Results: menopausal health

- Significant reductions for both groups in Anxiety/Fears, Depressed Mood,Sleep Problems, Vasomotor Symptoms
- Services Users: no significant improvement in Somatic Symptoms or Memory/Concentration



Comparison of Six WHQ Domains at Baseline and EOT

p = 0.000 p = 0.000

Results: "Bothersomeness"

- PRS scores similar for both groups at all time points
- All changes within groups significant at all time points
- Clinical significance (change of 2 points) was nearly attained within each group for all measurement points over baseline



Discussion (breast cancer)

- 8 (4.3%) of 187 Service Users did not complete treatment
- Questionnaire completion was disappointing for Service Users
- Data for SU and RP remarkably consistent at end of treatment
- Evaluation shows the outcomes for Service Users and Research Participants can be similar

NADA for prostate cancer

- NADA specialists push for NADA for men
- Funds from a legacy donation enabled clinical outcomes study
- "Seed" project
- Focus on wellbeing rather than a specific symptom



Key questions

- What symptoms do prostate cancer survivors find troublesome?
- Can these be addressed using the NADA protocol
- Is NADA treatment in a group setting acceptable to prostate cancer survivors?

Results

- 20 men enrolled
- 19 completed 8 NADA treatments
- Mean age = 68 years(range 59-79)
- Mean time since diagnosis = 4 years (range 1-11)
- Of 8 domains on the SF-36, only Vitality showed significant improvement

MYMOP Results

- Scale 0 = "as good as could be", 6 = "as bad a could be"
- A change of 0.5 points or more is clinically significant
- All changes in scores were significant (p<0.5)
- n=19



Symptom 1

- Hot flushes
- Loss of bladder control
- Poor libido
- Fatigue
- Shoulder pain
- Inability to exercise

Symptom 2

- Loss of bladder control
- Nocturia
- Bowel disorders
- Musculoskeletal pain
- Fatigue
- Poor sleep
- Loss of appetite
- Poor memory
- Dizziness
- Feeling low

Troublesome symptoms

Symptom Related Daily Interference Scale (SRDIS)

- Scale: 0 = "does not interfere", 10 = "completely interferes"
- Significant changes in Work, Social, Sleep, Mood, Concentration, Quality of life



Discussion (prostate cancer)

- Men presented with a range of symptoms
- Symptoms continue for many years after completing active cancer treatment
- NADA treatment appears to:
 - Reduce symptom burden (MYMOP)
 - Improve vitality (SF-36)
 - Reduce interference of symptoms on daily living (SRDIS)
- Most found NADA in groups acceptable

Service development: prostate

- Commenced May 2017
- 3 groups
- 12 men treated
- Funded as part of therapists' role



Comments at end of treatment

- "Helped in most departments sleep, appetite and frequency of sweats" (KS)
- "...Energy levels have picked up ... its easier to motivate myself" (KS)
- "It seemed to take a long time to kick in but from session 6, I noticed changes" (CK)
- "Would definitely rate it a success" (RP)
- "The whole experience has been delightful ...found it extremely relaxing" (JF)

Service development: hospital staff

- Springs from enthusiasm and initiative of NADA specialist
- Offers NADA to staff and volunteers
- Pay £6/session
- 8 sessions offered
- Future possibility of top-ups



Comments

- "Slept very well and deep"
- "More energy and more optimistic outlook more motivated"
- "Lovely no hot flushes and sleeping well"
- "Definitely feel less anxious"
- "General wellbeing much improved"
- "No headaches"

Conclusion: research to practice



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Thank you!

