

# **Cancer Symptom Assessment Scales: Patient Preferences**

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## **Introduction**

- ❖ **Poly-Symptomatic (Median 10-13)**
  
- ❖ **Systematic v Open-Ended Enquiry**
  - **Multi-Dimensional**
  - **Uni-Dimensional**

## Categorical

1. How has your fitness been over the past week? Circle one response below.

None      Mild      Moderate      Severe

## Numerical

2. How has your pain been over the past week? Circle a number from 0 to 10.

No Pain: 0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   Severe Pain

## Visual Analogue

3. Have you noticed any loss of appetite in the past week? Mark a point on the line below.

No Appetite Loss      |-----|      Severe Appetite Loss

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# Aims

## 1. Determine Scale Preferences for

- ❖ Pain
- ❖ Fatigue
- ❖ Loss of Appetite

## 2. Assess Clinical Utility

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# Methods

**Population: Consecutive Cancer Admissions**

**Inclusion Criteria: Cancer Diagnosis**

**≥18 years**

**ECOG Performance Status ≤ 4**

**English Speaking**

**<1 week of Admission**

**Exclusion Criteria: Too Unwell**

**Dementia**

**Unable to Complete Scales**

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# Methods

❖ **Ethics Approval**

❖ **Recruitment: MDT Meeting**

❖ **Written Consent**

❖ **Data Collection:**

- **Bedside Confusion Scale**

- **3 Symptoms (Pain, Fatigue, Loss of Appetite)**

- **3 Scales (NRS, CRS, VAS)**

- **Researcher: Clinical Utility**

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## Interim results (n= 75)

### % Admissions

n=228	%
Eligible	57
Ineligible	43
Total	100

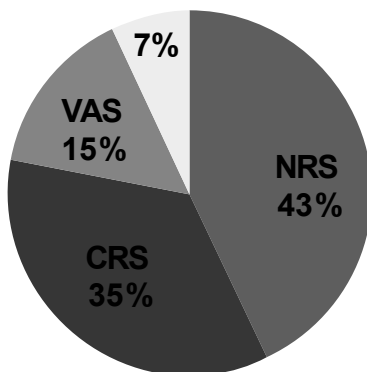
### % Recruited

n=131	%
Yes	57
No	13
No Longer Eligible	30

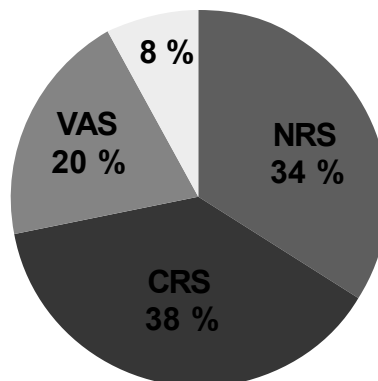
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## Patient Preference

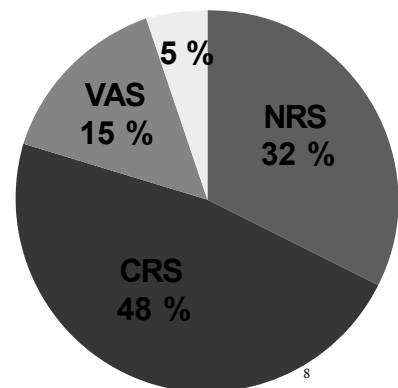
### Pain



### Fatigue



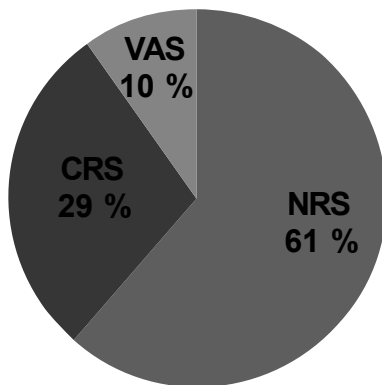
### Loss Appetite



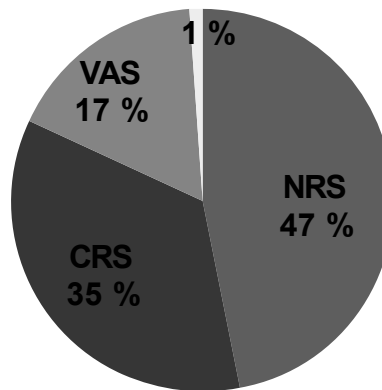
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# Clinical Utility

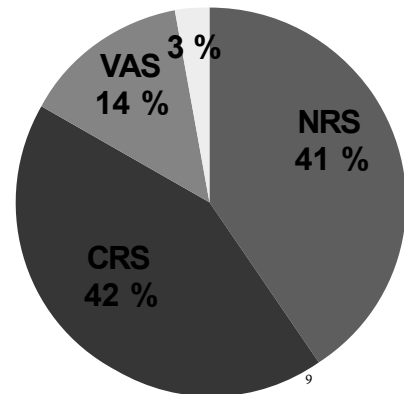
## Pain



## Fatigue



## Loss Appetite



# Discussion

## ❖ Summary

- Preference Depends on Symptom
- VAS Least Preferred
- Clinical Utility for Fatigue Differs from Preference

## ❖ Observations

- Increased Fatigue
- Training
- Difficulty with "Loss of Appetite"
- NRS too Restrictive

## ❖ Limitations

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# Conclusions

1. **Clinical Significance**
  - ◊ **Assessment Frequency**
  - ◊ **VAS Unsuitable**
  - ◊ **Establish Patients' Understanding**
  
2. **Research Significance**
  - ◊ **Caution with VAS**

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