Abstract Group: 11.1. Lung Cancer

Keyword 1: Lung cancer / Oncology Keyword 2: Nursing care Keyword 3: Primary care

Title: Patient’s contacts with primary health care regarding specific lung cancer symptoms the year prior to diagnosis

RN. Eva 29930 Österlund Efraimsson eoe@du.se MD ¹, RN. Margaretha 29931 Korsgren margareta.korsgren@hotmail.com ¹,2, RN. Birgitta 29932 Göthman birgitta.gothman@ltdalarna.se ² and RN. Kersin 29933 Smids kerstin.smids@ltdalarna.se ¹,2. ¹ Dalarna University, 3School of Health and Social Studies, Falun, Sweden and ² Dalarna County Council, Falu Hospital, Falun, Sweden.

Body: Aim: To describe the contact patients had with primary health care retrospectively a year before lung cancer was diagnosed: number of contacts, specific symptoms of lung cancer and time from the first contact until referral to chest x-ray, specialized lung clinic and diagnosis. Method: The design was a retrospective medical record review with a quantitative approach. Ten records were selected from patients diagnosed with lung cancer in a mid-Swedish municipality from January to June 2011. Result: Patients had on average eight primary health contacts (telephone advice and/or surgery visits) with a registered nurse or doctor the year before a lung cancer diagnosis was established. On average, four of these contacts could be linked with specific symptoms of lung cancer such as cough, dyspnea, fatigue, back/chest pain and hemoptysis. The average time span from the first contact about specific symptoms until diagnosis was 21 weeks. The average time from making a lung cancer clinic referral until establishing a diagnosis was three weeks. Conclusion: The study showed a large discrepancy between practice and clinical guidelines on chest x-ray for smokers over 40 experiencing new respiratory symptoms. On average the patient had contact with primary health care showing specific lung cancer symptoms for eleven weeks until a chest x-ray referral was made and for 21 weeks until a diagnosis was established.