

# QUESTIONNAIRE ON KNOWLEDGE, CLINICAL PRACTICE AND ATTITUDES OF ONCOLOGISTS ABOUT COMPLEMENTARY, INTEGRATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached a questionnaire for research purposes on complementary, integrative and alternative medicine in oncology practice.

**Conventional therapy:** Procedures that have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, that are described in guidelines and standards of medical, oncology practice, that follow strict application protocols and are accepted by the wider oncology community for the treatment of cancer. Their aim is direct treatment of cancer. For example, surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy.

**Complementary therapy:** Procedures, some of which have and some do not have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, and which are used **in addition to conventional cancer treatment** to relieve symptoms and increase quality of life, but which do not aim to directly cure cancer. For example, acupuncture, yoga, aromatherapy, massage, meditation, mindfulness or hypnosis.

**Alternative therapy:** Procedures, some of which have and some do not have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, that are **used instead of conventional cancer treatment** and aim to directly cure cancer. For example, hyperthermia or oncothermia, coenzyme Q10 supplements, herbal medicines such as mangiferin, dietary supplements, other physical and spiritual practices.

Filling out the questionnaire is voluntary and anonymous, and it takes about 15 minutes. Please answer all the questions.

Thank you in advance!

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Oncology Clinic, University Hospital of Split

There are 70 questions in this survey.

## Random

(rand1,8) \*

## Participants' sociodemographics and professional status

Your age \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 18 and 99

Please write your answer here:

Gender \*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Female

☐ Male

## The country you work in most of the time? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Montenegro
- ☐ North Macedonia
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Serbia

## Professional status \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Oncology specialist

## Specialization \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Medical oncologist
- ☐ Clinical oncologist
- ☐ Radiation oncologist

## Total duration of your work experience with oncology patients (in years): \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 0 and 99

Please write your answer here:

## Type of institution in which you work most of your working time: \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ General hospital
- ☐ Specialized oncology institution
- ☐ University hospital

## Total average number of breast cancer patients you examine monthly? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

## How often are you in contact with breast cancer patients? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Per week
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Less frequently than annually
- ☐ Never

## Number of breast cancer patients treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy that you examined during the previous six months? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

## Neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment of early breast cancer

Out of all your patients who were diagnosed with early breast cancer during the last 12 months, what percentage is, was or will be treated with NEOADJUVANT therapy? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 0 and 100

Please write your answer here:

%

Please estimate at least approximately and enter one percentage

Divide 100 points according to how important a particular goal of neoadjuvant treatment of early breast cancer is to you. The more important the goal, the more points you will award it. \*

Only numbers may be entered in these fields.

The sum must equal 100.

Please fill in 6 answers

Your answer must be between 0 and 100

The sum must equal 100

Please write your answer(s) here:

Reduction of tumor in order to enable a sparing surgery

Enabling a surgery of an initially inoperable tumor

Improving the outcome of primary surgery

Assessment of tumor response to specific therapy

Elimination micro-metastases which are not visible yet

Psychological help to the patient while she is waiting for surgery

For each side effect of early breast cancer treatment, indicate whether it is a greater problem during neoadjuvant (NA) or during adjuvant (A) treatment? \*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	<b>Much greater during NA</b>	<b>Slightly greater during NA</b>	<b>Equally during NA &amp; A</b>	<b>Slightly greater during A</b>	<b>Much greater during A</b>
<b>Peripheral neuropathy</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Fatigue</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Nausea and vomiting</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Anemia</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Depression and other mood disorders</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Sleep disturbance</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Poor quality of life</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Probable use of complementary therapy

**Complementary therapy:** Procedures, some of which have and some do not have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, and which are used in addition to conventional cancer treatment to relieve symptoms and increase quality of life, but which do not aim to directly cure cancer. For example, acupuncture, yoga, aromatherapy, massage, meditation, mindfulness or hypnosis.

### EXPLANATION

Two descriptions of patients with newly diagnosed breast cancer are in front of you. Read each description carefully, then answer all the questions below it.



## How to answer the questions?

You answer by marking one answer in each line, i.e. for each complementary therapy, from 1 "you would recommend", through 2 "you would allow" to 3 "you would prevent".

## Please read a more detailed explanation of the answers offered:

1 = **You would recommend:** You would recommend it for that condition yourself. It is a therapy with sufficient evidence of efficacy, safety and tolerability that oncologists should recommend it to patients.

2 = **You would allow:** You would allow the use of it. It is a therapy without sufficient evidence of efficacy so the oncologist should not recommend it on their own. Nevertheless, the therapy is without suspicion of harmfulness or interactions with conventional therapy, so it can be allowed or ignored if the patients want to use it, after explaining to them that they cannot expect an effect.

3 = **You would prevent:** It is a therapy with evidence or a higher probability of harmfulness, poor tolerability or an increased risk of interactions with conventional therapy, so it is necessary to explain to the patient that she should not take it during the adjuvant/neoadjuvant chemotherapy treatment.

## **Description of the first patient:** **NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 1

## **Description of the first patient:** **NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 2

## **Description of the first patient:** **NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 3

## **Description of the first patient:** **NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 4

## **Description of the first patient:** **NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 5

## **Description of the first patient:** **NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 6

## **Description of the first patient: NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 7

## **Description of the first patient: NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of NEOADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 8

How many patients comparable to the described patient, treated with NEOADJUVANT therapy, do you examine during an average month? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

Please estimate at least approximately and enter a number

In each line, mark one answer to the question whether you would recommend, allow or prevent the use of each individual therapy for that indication. Answer for all 28 therapies with seven indications. \*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>PHYSICAL EXERCISE</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GLUTATHIONE</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ACETYL-L-CARNITINE</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COMPRESSION THERAPY</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>YOGA</b>  (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>GINSENG</b> (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GUARANA</b> (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ACETYL-L-CARNITINE</b> (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GRAPEFRUIT</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GINGER</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GLUTAMINE</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ACUPRESSURE</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COLLOIDAL SILVER</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>BEET JUICE</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>HIGH DOSES OF VITAMIN C</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GREEN TEA</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MINDFULNESS</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ST. JOHN'S WORT</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>YOGA</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>RELAXATION</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COGNITIVE BIHEVIORAL THERAPY</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>KAVA KAVA (lat. PIPER METHYSTICUM)</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MELATONIN</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>QI GONG</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COMFREY (lat. SYMPHYTUM)</b> (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MISTLETOE</b> (subcutaneous injections) (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MEDITATION</b> (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>PC-SPES MIXTURE OF HERBS</b> (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Individual therapies are written in capital letters, and indications are written in parentheses.

Example: individual therapy - PHYSICAL EXERCISE, indication - (peripheral neuropathy)

**Description of the second patient:**  
**ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 1

**Description of the second patient:**  
**ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 2

## **Description of the second patient:** **ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 3

## **Description of the second patient:** **ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 35 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 4

## **Description of the second patient:** **ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 5

## **Description of the second patient:** **ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has completed primary school. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 6

## **Description of the second patient:** **ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer without affected lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 7

## **Description of the second patient:** **ADJUVANT TREATMENT**

**The woman is 75 years old and has university degree. She was diagnosed with early breast cancer with positive axillary lymph nodes. She is at the end of the second cycle of ADJUVANT chemotherapy with anthracycline and cyclophosphamide as part of the AC-T protocol.**

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

q1 == 8

How many patients comparable to the described patient, treated with ADJUVANT therapy, do you examine during an average month? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

Please estimate at least approximately and enter a number

In each line, mark one answer to the question whether you would recommend, allow or prevent the use of each individual therapy for that indication. Answer for all 28 therapies with seven indications. \*

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>PHYSICAL EXERCISE</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GLUTATHIONE</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ACETYL-L-CARNITINE</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COMPRESSION THERAPY</b>  (Prevention of peripheral neuropathy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>YOGA</b>  (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>GINSENG</b> (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GUARANA</b> (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ACETYL-L-CARNITINE</b> (Fatigue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GRAPEFRUIT</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GINGER</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GLUTAMINE</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ACUPRESSURE</b> (Nausea and vomiting)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COLLOIDAL SILVER</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>BEET JUICE</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>HIGH DOSES OF VITAMIN C</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GREEN TEA</b> (Anemia)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MINDFULNESS</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ST. JOHN'S WORT</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>YOGA</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>RELAXATION</b> (Depression and other mood disorders)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COGNITIVE BIHEVIORAL THERAPY</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	You would recommend	You would allow	You would prevent
<b>KAVA KAVA (lat. PIPER METHYSTICUM)</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MELATONIN</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>QI GONG</b> (Sleep disturbances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>COMFREY (lat. SYMPHYTUM)</b> (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MISTLETOE</b> (subcutaneous injections) (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MEDITATION</b> (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>PC-SPES MIXTURE OF HERBS</b> (Quality of life)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Individual therapies are written in capital letters, and indications are written in parentheses.

Example: individual therapy - PHYSICAL EXERCISE, indication - (peripheral neuropathy)

**Would you use COMPLEMENTARY therapies more with NEOADJUVANT treatment before primary surgery or with ADJUVANT treatment after primary surgery for early breast cancer, or would you use it equally? \***

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ You would never use any complementary therapies
- ☐ Much more with neoadjuvant therapy
- ☐ A little more with neoadjuvant therapy
- ☐ Equally with neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy
- ☐ A little more with adjuvant therapy
- ☐ Much more with adjuvant therapy

**How would you describe your general attitude about complementary therapies in patients with early breast cancer treated with NEOADJUVANT THERAPY? \***

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Moderately positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Moderately negative
- ☐ Very negative
- ☐ I don't know

## How would you describe your general attitude about complementary therapies in patients with early breast cancer treated with ADJUVANT THERAPY after primary surgery? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Moderately positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Moderately negative
- ☐ Very negative
- ☐ I don't know

In neoadjuvant treatment of early breast cancer, there is a greater risk that complementary therapies will reduce the effect of conventional therapy on tumor, than is the case in adjuvant treatment after primary surgery. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

In the neoadjuvant treatment of early breast cancer, there is a greater risk that complementary therapies will jeopardize compliance of patient with conventional treatment than in the case of adjuvant treatment after primary surgery. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

The use of complementary therapy in the neoadjuvant treatment of early breast cancer may complicate monitoring the tumor's response to specific conventional therapy and make future therapeutic decisions difficult. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

In the neoadjuvant treatment of breast cancer, complementary therapy can threaten the effect of conventional treatment on micro-metastases that are not yet detectable. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Complementary therapies may have different effects on neoadjuvant chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and targeted therapy of early breast cancer before primary surgery. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

It is more important to control the side effects of conventional therapy with complementary therapies in adjuvant, than in neoadjuvant treatment of early breast cancer. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## General attitudes, beliefs and clinical practice

The questions until the end of the questionnaire no longer deal only with breast cancer, but with cancer treatment in general.

### EXPLANATION

**Conventional cancer therapy:** Procedures that have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, that are described in guidelines and standards of medical, oncology practice, that follow strict application protocols and are accepted by the wider oncology community for the treatment of cancer. Their aim is the direct treatment of cancer. For example, surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy.

**Complementary therapy:** Procedures, some of which have and some do not have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, and which are used **in addition to conventional cancer treatment** to relieve symptoms and increase quality of life, but which do not aim to directly cure cancer. For example, acupuncture, yoga, aromatherapy, massage, meditation, mindfulness, and hypnosis"

**Alternative therapy:** Procedures, some of which have and some do not have empirical evidence of efficacy and safety arising from clinical studies and other scientific research, that are **used instead of conventional cancer treatment** and aim to directly cure cancer. For



example, hypertemia or oncothermia, coenzyme Q10 supplements, herbal medicines such as mangiferin, dietary supplements, other physical and spiritual practices.

## How would you describe your general attitude about complementary therapies in oncology patients? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Moderately positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Moderately negative
- ☐ Very negative
- ☐ I don't know

## How would you describe your general attitude about alternative therapy in cancer treatment? \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Moderately positive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Moderately negative
- ☐ Very negative
- ☐ I don't know

During your education or work, did you have professional education on complementary medicine? \*

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Estimate the percentage of your patients who currently use some complementary therapies in addition to conventional oncology treatment? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 0 and 100

Please write your answer here:

%

Estimate the percentage of your patients who are currently using some alternative cancer treatment therapies? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 0 and 100

Please write your answer here:

%

Estimate the percentage of your patients with whom you discussed complementary therapies during the last 12 months? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 0 and 100

Please write your answer here:

%

Estimate the percentage of your patients with whom you discussed alternative therapies in the treatment of cancer during the last 12 months? \*

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Your answer must be between 0 and 100

Please write your answer here:

%

You are interested in complementary medicine. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## You are interested in alternative medicine. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## Oncology patients should be treated exclusively with conventional therapy. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Complementary therapies are an important addition to conventional oncological treatment. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Alternative therapies are an important addition to conventional oncological treatment. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## Alternative cancer therapies should be prohibited by law. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## Oncologists should routinely check whether the patient is taking any complementary or alternative therapies. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Oncologists should be trained to competently advise patients on complementary therapies. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

You are personally trained to competently advise patients on complementary therapies. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## Oncology institutions should also offer patients complementary therapies. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

## Some types of alternative medicine have real antineoplastic properties. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree



You believe that alternative medicine is effective in the treatment of malignant diseases. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Some types of complementary therapies can help alleviate the side effects of conventional oncological treatments such as chemotherapy. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Most complementary therapies are safe and have minimal side effects. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Most alternative therapies are safe and have minimal side effects. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

You are concerned about possible interactions between conventional oncology therapy and complementary therapies. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

You are concerned about possible interactions between conventional oncology therapy and alternative therapies. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

The use of complementary therapies can compromise adherence to conventional treatment. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

You believe that most of oncology patients you work with report to you the use of complementary and alternative medicine. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

You believe that cancer patients spend too much money on complementary and alternative medicine. \*

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I don't agree at all
- ☐ I don't agree
- ☐ Indecisive
- ☐ I agree
- ☐ I completely agree

Thank you!

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Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.