CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY
A Global Network of Education and Hope

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Significant Percentage of Prostate Cancer Survivors Experience Treatment Regret

Study respondents report health concerns about uncertainty and disease progression, reduced sexual confidence and intimacy

CHICAGO, IL – (June 2, 2017) – The Cancer Support Community (CSC) announced today the results of its study of prostate cancer patients as part of its Cancer Experience Registry, at the 2017 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting.

Of note, 20 percent of participants "somewhat to very much" agreed that they would choose a different treatment if they could redo their decision. Over three-quarters (76%) of respondents reported erectile dysfunction (ED) since diagnosis. ED was common among those who underwent surgery/radiation (84%) and those currently (100%) or previously (88%) receiving hormone therapy. Nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents reported that incontinence made sexual activity/intimacy difficult.

"Usually, doctors are looking at medical data, outcomes, and efficacy and recommending treatments that will lead to the best survival for the patient," remarked CSC's CEO Kim Thiboldeaux. "These findings demonstrate that survivors care about more than just surviving, they care about living well."

Survivors who experienced treatment regret were more likely to experience significantly greater cancer-related distress. Moreover, survivors who reported poorer quality of life, including sexual confidence and intimacy concerns, were also more likely to experience greater distress.

CSC Research Director Alexandra K. Zaleta, PhD commented, "Efforts are needed during the treatment decision making process to help prostate cancer survivors think through their treatment options and anticipate the impact of treatment on their quality of life. But it doesn't end there. We also need to support them post-treatment in order to improve their quality of life and reduce their treatment regret."

"Without a doubt, medical teams around the country are working very hard, every day to treat cancers and tumors. However, it is imperative that patient's stated needs and priorities be at the center of all treatment decisions. Only then, will true, high quality, comprehensive, patient-centered care be achieved. And that should be our collective goal," Kim Thiboldeaux added.

The abstract as presented at the 2017 ASCO Annual Meeting Symposium is available online at http://bit.ly/2siSun6.

About the Cancer Support Community

As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is dedicated to ensuring that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community. CSC achieves its mission through three areas: direct service delivery, research, and advocacy. The organization includes an international network of Affiliates that offer the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer, as well as a community of support available online and over the phone. The Research and Training Institute conducts cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral, and survivorship research. CSC furthers its focus on patient advocacy through its Cancer Policy Institute, informing public policy in Washington, D.C. and across the nation. In 2016, the CSC network delivered nearly $45 million in free services to patients and families. For more information, please call the toll-free Cancer Support Helpline at 888-793-9355, or visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org. *So that no one faces cancer alone®*

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