

# Exploring the Use and Perception of Patient-Reported Outcome Evidence Among Cardiologists and Patients with Heart Failure PCR95

Anna Niklasson, MSc, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Nenad Medic, MSc, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Calvin N. Ho, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Livia Lai, PhD<sup>4</sup>, Hannah Powell, BSc, MSc<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>AstraZeneca, Gothenburg, Sweden, <sup>2</sup>AstraZeneca, Cambridge, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup>AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg, MD, USA, <sup>4</sup>IQVIA, London, United Kingdom.

## Introduction

### Background:

- Patient reported outcomes (PRO) evidence offers unique insights into the patient experience and complements traditional clinical data.
- In heart failure (HF), PROs help assess symptom burden and quality of life.
- Despite regulatory support, PROs are underused in clinical decision-making.

### Objectives:

- This study aimed to assess the use, understanding, and perception of PRO evidence among cardiologists specializing in HF and patients living with HF in the US and UK, and to identify preferences for PRO evidence dissemination and the impact of PRO data on treatment decision-making.

## Methods

### Study Design:

- Qualitative research using teleconference-based focus groups
- Conducted in two iterative waves for refinement

### Participants:

- Cardiologists: 25 total (US: 12; UK: 13)
- Patients: 28 total (US: 15; UK: 13)

### Approach:

- Semi-structured discussion guides
- Thematic analysis of anonymized transcripts
- Polling questions used to quantify perceptions

Figure 1: Geographical distribution of cardiologists



Figure 2: Geographical distribution of patients



## Results

### Cardiologist FG results

#### Familiarity, Understanding, and Perception:

- Most cardiologists demonstrated a good understanding of PRO evidence.
- However, there was variation in their appreciation of the scientific rigor behind PRO data collection and validation.
- PROs viewed as "soft endpoints" and often perceived as anecdotal.

#### Importance of PRO evidence:

- Rated as moderately important for treatment decisions, especially when paired with clinical outcomes
  - Average importance rating:
    - US: 1.8 (on a scale of 0–3)
    - UK: 2.5

#### Use of PRO instruments and evidence:

- PROs discussed informally during consultations (e.g. symptom impact)
- Time constraints and lack of access cited as barriers to routine PRO collection

#### Preferences for PRO dissemination:

- Prefer PROs published in high-impact journals alongside clinical data
- Value visual formats (graphs, sample details) and lay summaries

Figure 3: Cardiologists' perceived importance of PRO evidence for treatment decisions, based on live polling results

On a scale from 0 (not important at all) to 3 (highly important), how much emphasis do you place on the available PRO evidence when considering different treatment options for patients?



### Patient FG results

#### Familiarity, Understanding, and Perception:

- Limited awareness of PROs from clinical trials
- Often equated PROs with verbal symptom discussions during appointments

#### Importance of PRO evidence:

- Rated PROs as moderately to highly important for making informed decisions
  - Average importance rating:
    - US: 2.4 (on a scale of 0–3)
    - UK: 2.2

#### Use of PRO instruments and evidence:

- Patients are interested in accessing PRO evidence independently
- Patients would prefer their HCPs bring PRO evidence up with them instead of initiating discussions on PRO evidence themselves.

#### Preferences for PRO dissemination:

- Desire for clear, relatable formats and trusted online sources
- Preferred formats:
  - Pie charts and infographics
  - Brochures, online resources, and patient support groups

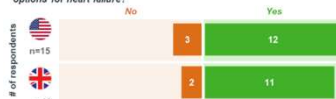
Figure 4: Patients' perceived importance of PRO evidence for treatment decisions, based on live polling results

On a scale from 0 (not important at all) to 3 (highly important), how important would information from patient-completed questionnaires (PRO evidence) be for you when considering a future treatment?



Figure 5: Patients' willingness to proactively seek out PRO evidence, based on live polling results

Would you proactively seek information on how heart failure treatments affect symptoms, functioning, or quality of life, as reported by patients? In other words, would you proactively seek patient-completed questionnaire information (PRO evidence) to help decide on treatment options for heart failure?



## Conclusions

- Both cardiologists and patients recognize the value of PRO evidence in heart failure care, yet its use in clinical decision-making remain limited.
- Targeted dissemination methods—including integrated publications, patient-friendly materials, and aids to enhance clinician-patient dialogue—may increase the impact and utility of PRO evidence in clinical practice.

## References

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