

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

PCR95

Anna Niklasson, MSc, PhD¹, Nenad Medic, MSc, PhD², Calvin N. Ho, PhD³, Livia Lai, PhD⁴, Hannah Powell, BSc, MSc⁴.¹AstraZeneca, Gothenburg, Sweden, ²AstraZeneca, Cambridge, United Kingdom, ³AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg, MD, USA, ⁴IQVIA, 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

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



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

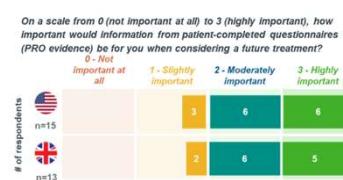


Figure 5: Patients' willingness to proactively seek out PRO evidence, based on live polling results



Conclusions

- Both cardiologists and patients recognize the value of PRO evidence in heart failure care, yet its use in clinical decision-making remains 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

- FDA US H. Services H. Patient-Focused Drug Development: Collecting Comprehensive and Representative Input: Guidance for Industry, Food and Drug Administration Staff, and Other Stakeholders. Published online 2020.
- FDA. Patient-Focused Drug Development: Selecting, Developing, or Modifying Fit-for-Purpose Clinical Outcome Assessments Guidance for Industry, Food and Drug Administration Staff, and Other Stakeholders (Draft Guidance). US Department of Health and Human Services; 2022.
- FDA US H. Services H. Patient-Focused Drug Development: Methods to Identify What Is Important to Patients Guidance for Industry, Food and Drug Administration Staff, and Other Stakeholders. Published online 2022.
- Reaney M. Using Patient Experience Data to Evaluate Medical Interventions: Generating, Understanding and Using Patient Experience Data Within and Alongside Clinical Trials. IQVIA; 2023.