

# A Conceptual Model for Advanced/Metastatic Gastric or Gastroesophageal Junction Cancer: Results from a Targeted Literature Review and Patient Interviews



France Ginchereau Sowell,<sup>1\*</sup> Thom de Milliano,<sup>2</sup> Keri JS Brady,<sup>3</sup> Ginamarie Foglia,<sup>4</sup> Medha Sasane,<sup>3</sup> Samira Bensfia<sup>3</sup> and Matthew Reaney<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Patient Centered Solutions, IQVIA, New York, NY, USA; <sup>2</sup>Consulting Services, IQVIA, Amsterdam, Netherlands;<sup>a</sup> <sup>3</sup>Sanofi, Cambridge, MA, USA; <sup>4</sup>Sanofi, Bridgewater, NJ, USA;<sup>a</sup> <sup>5</sup>Patient Centered Solutions, IQVIA, Reading, UK  
<sup>a</sup>Affiliations at the time of the study. Current affiliations for the relevant authors are: TdM, Santen Pharmaceutical, Amsterdam, Netherlands; GF, Shabas Solutions LLC, VA, USA.

\*Correspondence: france.ginchereau@iqvia.com

## Background and objectives

- Despite recent approval of first-line immunotherapy treatments, patients with advanced/metastatic gastric cancer/gastroesophageal junction cancer (aGC/GEJC) have a median survival of ~14 months.<sup>1</sup>
- This study aimed to understand the health-related quality of life of patients living with aGC/GEJC and to:
  - explore the symptoms experienced by patients caused by aGC/GEJC, related treatment, and/or surgery
  - understand the impact of aGC/GEJC on patients' lives.

## Methods

- A targeted literature review (TLR) was conducted to identify qualitative research in aGC/GEJC from 2018 to 2021. This was reviewed alongside a patient interview study<sup>2</sup> and a review of health-related quality of life studies and patient blogs, both published in 2017.<sup>3</sup>
- Using the published patient experience data, an interview guide was developed for use in one-to-one semi-structured concept elicitation (CE) telephone interviews with patients.
- Interview data were coded using Atlas.ti following a framework.
- A conceptual model was developed based on the CE interview findings and the TLR.

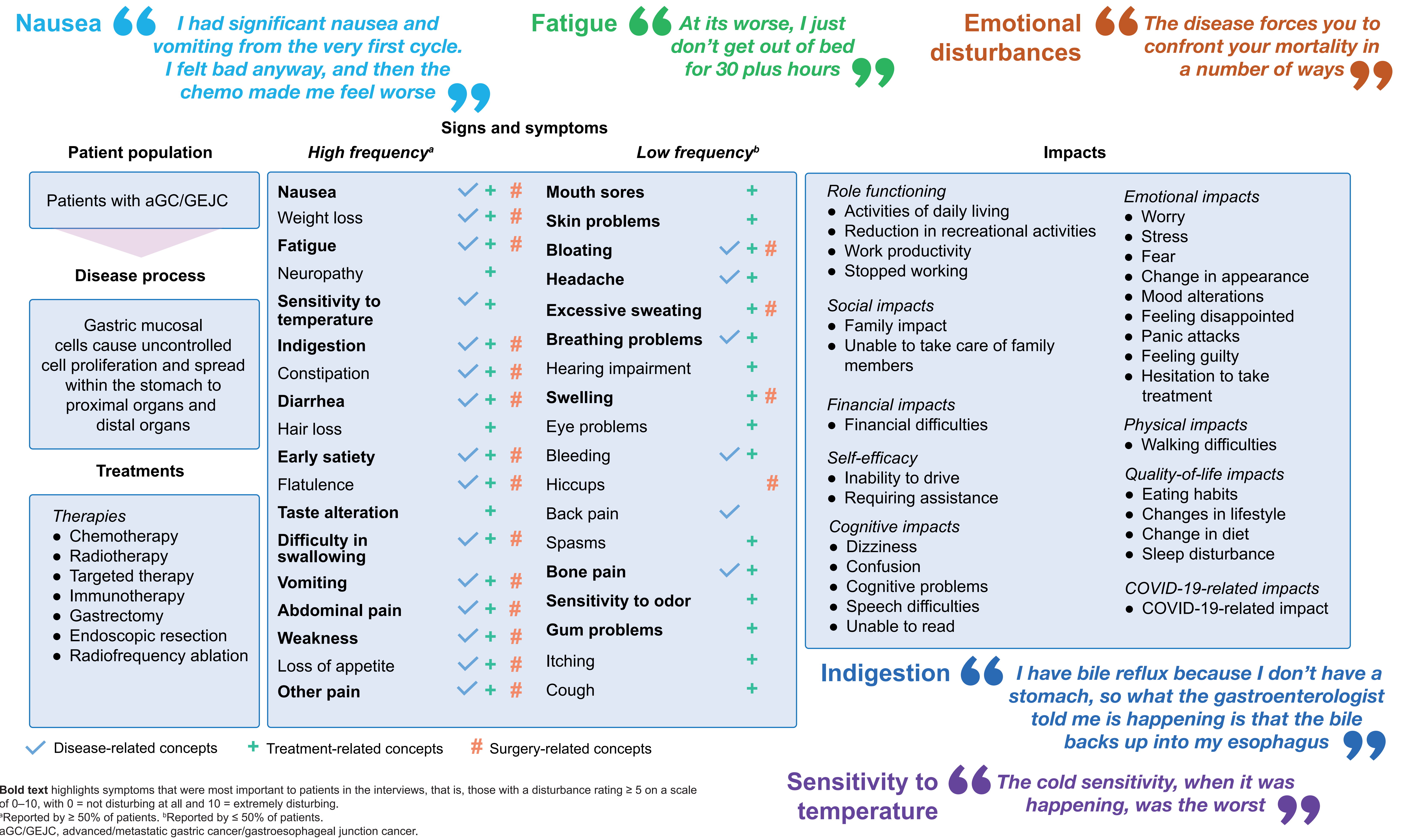
## Results

- The TLR identified four qualitative studies from 2018 and 2021. When reviewed alongside data from the two prior publications,<sup>2,3</sup> 47 symptoms and 35 impacts of aGC/GEJC were identified.
- Twenty patients were interviewed (baseline characteristics are reported in **Supplementary Table 1**).
  - Most patients (65%) were women and nearly all patients (95%) were White.
  - Most patients (60%) had previously undergone surgery.
  - Four sets of five interviews identified 36 symptoms and 31 impacts. No new symptoms/impacts emerged in the final set of interviews, meaning that concept saturation was reached.
  - The most common impacts were 'requiring assistance from caregivers', 'impacts on family and daily activities', and 'emotional disturbances'.
  - The 12 most important symptoms (mentioned by ≥ 50% of patients; average disturbance ratings: ≥ 5, scale: 0, not disturbing at all, to 10, extremely disturbing) were: nausea, fatigue, sensitivity to temperature, indigestion, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, early satiety, difficulty in swallowing, taste alteration, abdominal pain, and other pain.
- Figure 1** shows the conceptual disease model and patient interview quotations.

## Limitations

- The literature review included only qualitative literature from June 2017 to January 2021.
- The patients interviewed were well educated (75% with a higher level of education than high school) and were not diverse: all 20 participants were from the USA and 19 were White.

## Figure 1. Conceptual disease model and patient interview quotations



## Conclusions

- The conceptual disease model provides valuable data on the most important symptoms and impacts of aGC/GEJC that affect patients' lives, their experiences of care, and their willingness to participate in clinical trials.
- These results should be considered when defining the efficacy of innovative treatments, including the choice of patient-reported outcome strategy, to ensure that these treatments are well tolerated and improve both patient survival and health-related quality of life.

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### Disclosures

- MS and SB are employees of Sanofi and may hold shares and/or stocks in the company. GF and KJSB were employees of Sanofi at the time of this study. FGS and MR are employees of IQVIA and may hold shares and/or stocks in the company. TdM was an employee at IQVIA at the time of this study.

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