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Italian guideline on palliative care in adult patients with grade 3/4 gliomas

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Affiliations – collapse

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Abstract

Background: The palliative and supportive care needs of adults with glioma are complex. In 2017, the European Association for Neuro-Oncology (EANO) published the guideline on palliative care (PC) in this population.

Objective: To develop a clinical practice guideline for the PC of adults with CNS WHO grade 3/4 gliomas by updating and adapting the EANO guideline to the Italian context.

Methods: The guideline was produced by an interdisciplinary, consumer-inclusive panel appointed by the three main Italian scientific associations for neurology, neuro-oncology and PC, following the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE).

Results: The panel formulated two clinical questions, addressed by three recommendations (all based on very-low-certainty evidence) and one Good Practice Statement: (1) We suggest the use of structured communication interventions to convey diagnosis, prognosis, and/or therapeutic and care options (conditional recommendation). (2) We recommend using approaches/tools to facilitate information processing in adults with glioma with reduced decision-making capacity (strong recommendation). (3) We believe it is appropriate to monitor the emotional impact that communication can have, and to provide support to adults with glioma and their caregivers (Good Practice Statement). (4) We suggest offering adults with CNS WHO grade 3/4 glioma a healthcare model that integrates the best anti-tumor and palliative treatments through early, dynamic, interdisciplinary, and multi-professional management of emerging health needs. The integrated model should be aligned with patients' care preferences and caregivers' needs and provided throughout the whole disease trajectory and across all care settings (conditional recommendation).

Conclusions: This guideline provides recommendations for improving communication and integrated PC for adults with glioma and their caregivers. It also provides indications for future research priorities in this population.

Keywords: Brain tumors; Clinical practice guideline; GRADE assessment; Palliative care.

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Conflict of interest statement

Declarations. Ethical approval: N/A. Competing interests: All Authors declare not competing interests directly or indirectly related to the work submitted for publication.

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