European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) and guideline development

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Guideline development

• Some considerations
  – Most oncology guidelines are organ specific
  – Palliative care as important component across cancer care, irrespective of cancer entity
  – Palliative care professionals are invited to participate in many cancer (organ specific) guidelines
  – Palliative care often only mentioned as short paragraph at the end
  – No indepth recommendations on palliative care specific topics (e.g. symptoms, communication, end of life care)

• Requirements for guideline development
  – Multi-disciplinary and multi-professional (close collaboration with oncology)
  – Evidence and consensus based
  – Funding necessary
Palliative care and oncology guidelines

Based on German Model

Organ specific guidelines
General pall care principles
Spec pall care, entity specific

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Organ specific guidelines
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Palliative Care guidelines
(symptoms, end of life care etc.)

Based on German Model

European Association for Palliative Care
Guidelines developed by the European Palliative Care Research Collaborative (EPCRC)

- **Pain**

- **Cachexia**
  - Definition and classification of cancer cachexia: an international consensus. Lancet Onc 2011
  - Clinical Practice Guidelines on Cancer Cachexia in Advanced Cancer Patients (www.epcrc.org/publication_listfiles.php?id=mWdBCMl5eXVlcNFk7Gnq)

- **Depression**
  - The Management of Depression in Palliative Care (www.epcrc.org/publication_listfiles.php?id=B37xKfhn62SbYIFlIsBsd)

- **All guidelines are based on systematic review & expert consultations**