

Palliative Care and Home Visit for Rural Cameroonian Patients with ABC

Clinique Medicale Camassistance Yaounde Cameroon

OVERVIEW: In rural areas of Cameroon, 90% of patients with ABC/mBC live without treatment and breast cancer is often discovered at a very advanced stage due to lack of awareness. This initiative organises home visits and psychosocial support for patients with ABC/mBC, as well as training for traditional healers, HCPs and members of the community in breast health.



Area of focus:

Support for patients with ABC/mBC

Target population:

Rural Cameroonian patients with ABC/mBC

Objectives: Provide patients with ABC/mBC in rural areas of Cameroon with appropriate care and psychological support. Train community health professionals, traditional healers and marabouts in breast health to improve understanding of ABC/mBC and treatment of patients with the disease

Unmet needs addressed:

- Lack of appropriate management of patients with ABC/mBC
- Isolation of rural communities from cancer care and inability of to travel
- Lack of training/knowledge on ABC/mBC for health professionals and traditional healers

Key components:

- Travel to rural communities to offer home visits to patients with ABC/mBC and provide psychosocial support
- Training of traditional healers, HCPs, social workers, church employees and journalists in breast health
- Development of a palliative care centre

Challenges: A combination of lack of knowledge and training in ABC/mBC alongside poverty in Cameroon

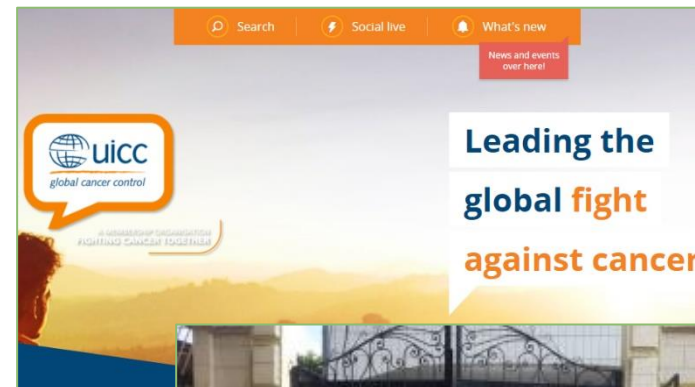
Outcomes: The initiative has been successful in reaching rural patients with ABC/mBC, with most now visiting the palliative care centre at least once per month

Development: The initiative was developed by a team of 12 people and builds on previous work supported by Pfizer Oncology and UICC through the SPARC programme

Cost: €10,000–€30,000

Timeline: This initiative ran from 2017 to 2019

Targeted to reach: 150–300



For more information:

<https://www.uicc.org/case-studies/strengthening-palliative-care-services-patients-metastatic-breast-cancer-cameroon>

Clinique Médicale Camassistance
Strengthening palliative care services for patients with metastatic breast cancer in Cameroon



Based on written submission from Prof Nkegoum Blaise, Clinique Médicale Camassistance, 2020. The Hard-to-Reach ABC/mBC Communities Toolkit was developed as a collaboration between Pfizer Oncology and the ABC Global Alliance, with funding and support provided by Pfizer. ABC Global Alliance members and Pfizer colleagues were invited to submit breast cancer community-based initiatives that address specific needs of underserved patient populations with advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Initiatives were evaluated against criteria determined by a steering committee with members from both Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance. Initiatives were selected for inclusion in the toolkit to highlight best practices in addressing the unique needs of this patient population. All organizations who submitted their initiatives for consideration have provided permission for the initiative information to be included in the toolkit and shared publicly. Pfizer and the ABC Global Alliance bear no responsibility for the contents of the toolkit.

| Ethnic, religious, indigenous/native populations and/or other historically marginalised groups | Younger patients | Older patients | Men | LGBTQ+ patients | **Low health knowledge patients** | **Patients who lack an adequate caregiver or support system** | **Patients who mistrust conventional treatments** | **Low income patients** | **Patients a long distance from a specialist centre** | Patients with uncontrolled comorbidities | Mental health patients |