Title: Risk perception in BRCA1/2 testing for index cases.

Débora Leblond [(1) (2)], Anne Brédart [(1) (2)], Sylvie Dolbeault [(1) (3)], Cécile Flahault [(1) (2)], Serge Sultan [(2)]

(1) Unité de Psycho-Oncologie, Institut Curie

(2) Université Paris Descartes, LPPS EA 4057, Institut de Psychologie

(3) Inserm, U669, Paris, France, Univ Paris-Sud and Univ Paris Descartes, UMR-S0669, Paris, France

Background: Identification of BRCA1/2 genes allowed the development of genetic testing for breast cancer predisposition. This transversal study focuses on genetic counselling for index cases, who initiate genetic approach.

Objectives: Risk perception and its underpinnings are investigated here.

Methods: 300 index cases received post-test self-administered questionnaires, assessing risk perception of predisposition, breast and ovarian cancer; and some potential determinants: general distress (HADS), test and cancer specific distress (IES), genetic knowledge (BGKQ), perceived control (PPC), coping (MAC). Until now, 163 have been analysed with SPSS.

Findings: Levels of average subjective risk perception of predisposition (48,5%), breast (44%) and ovarian cancer (35,5%) are elevated. The comparative perceived risk is higher than the general population respectively for 74, 67 and 59% of respondents. Levels of risk perception are correlated with each other, and with some individual, clinical, cognitive (BGKQ, MAC) and emotional dimensions (IEStest, HADS). Linear regressions models that resulted explained less than 20% of the variance in risk perception. Analysis are still in progress to understand these interactions. Results will be presented.

Discussion: Results denote the existence of a global perception of risk. Significant interactions highlight underpinnings of risk perception. A better understanding of those processes could help to identify and improve risk inaccuracy.

Keywords: Breast cancer, genetic testing, risk perception.