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National Societies: Dutch Society for Neuro-Oncology (LWNO)

Reijneveld J, Enting R

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National Societies:

Dutch Society for Neuro-Oncology (LWNO)

Jaap Reijneveld, Roelien Enting

The Dutch Society for Neuro-Oncology, or Landelijke Werkgroep Neuro-Oncologie (LWNO), has approximately 100 members, all physicians involved in the treatment of neuro-oncological patients, and 2 sub-committees for investigators (LWNO-i) and specialized nurses (LWNO-v).

The LWNO was founded in 1992; its main tasks are 4-fold.

■ Development and Maintenance of National Clinical Neuro-Oncological Guidelines and Treatment Protocols

The LWNO has developed guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of gliomas, parenchymal brain metastases, leptomeningeal metastases, and spinal epidural metastases of solid tumours. A working group on a guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of meningioma has just been installed. All guidelines are revised every 5 years and in between if new scientific evidence with sufficient impact on the diagnosis and/or treatment emerges. The guidelines are accessible through the website “OncoLine” (<http://www.oncoline.nl>), the digital oncological guideline database of the Dutch Cancer Centre (IKNL). Apart from those guidelines, the LWNO has developed treatment protocols for rare tumours such as medulloblastoma and germ cell tumours in adults.

■ Development of Quality Criteria for Care of Neuro-Oncological Patients

In close collaboration with Dutch advocacy groups of patients with neurological diseases and patients with cancer, the LWNO currently works on a document that defines qualitative and quantitative criteria for adequate care for neuro-oncological patients. These criteria will involve definitions of a sufficiently equipped hospital brain tumour multidisciplinary board and multidisciplinary outpatient clinic. Apart from that, we will provide guidelines for maximum intervals between diagnosis and start of treatment, and minimal numbers of patients to be treated. This document will set the stage for further improvement of the quality of care for this patient group throughout the Netherlands.

■ Support of National Clinical and Pre-Clinical Neuro-Oncological Studies

Dutch neuro-oncology has a longstanding reputation of excellent research, and members of the LWNO have played, and still play, important roles in international neuro-oncological societies and research organisations, such as EANO, EORTC, and SNO. Apart from those international collaborations, which the LWNO actively endorses, the LWNO provides support and a forum for the set-up of national clinical and pre-clinical studies, such as a randomised phase-II study on bevacizumab vs lomustine vs bevacizumab/lomustine in recurrent glioblastoma (BELOB study) and a randomised study on the internet-based treatment of glioma patients with depression.

■ Providing a National Forum

The LWNO provides a national forum for medical professionals involved in the research and treatment of neuro-oncological patients. The LWNO organizes meetings, such as our annual scientific meeting and the regular plenary meetings as well as meetings of the specific working groups and subcommittees. At the annual scientific meetings, the “STOPHersentumoren.nl” and the “Ties Rudolphie” prizes are awarded to outstanding professionals in neuro-oncology. On an *ad hoc* basis, the LWNO advises Dutch governmental and health organisations on neuro-oncological issues.

For more information please contact us via e-mail (vandekar@planet.nl) or visit our website (http://iknl.ecomany.com/Landelijk/werkgroepen/no_voor_leden/index.php).

Correspondence to:

Jaap C Reijneveld, MD
Department of Neurology – HP 2F.35
VU University Medical Center
PO Box 7057, 1007 MB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
e-mail: JC.Reijneveld@vumc.nl