

## Treatment of pain in cancer: Towards personalised medicine

**Marieke van den Beuken-van Everdingen**

Maastricht University Hospital, Netherland

Despite increased attention to cancer pain, pain prevalence in patients with cancer has not improved over the last decade. One third of cancer patients on anti-cancer therapy and half of patients with advanced disease still suffer from moderate to severe pain. In this lecture the possible reasons for this lack of improvement will be discussed: barriers for patients to discuss pain with clinicians spontaneously; pain measurement instruments are not routinely used in daily practice; limited knowledge concerning assessment of under treatment; changes in patients characteristics,

including ageing of the population; limitations of available pharmacological treatment, lack of robust literature on effectiveness and a one-opioid-fits-all mentality. This lecture will elaborate on future perspectives and the development of personalised medicine in cancer pain. Based on recent research two ways to personalised medicine in pain treatment will be explored: the search for predictors “which patient-pain characteristics combination will benefit from what medication” and the advances in pharmacogenetics.

e: m.vanden.beuken@mumc.nl



Notes: