

Improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of breast cancer follow-up

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STATEMENTS

Relating to the PhD dissertation

'Improving the Quality and Cost-effectiveness of Breast Cancer Follow-up'

Merel Kimman

Maastricht, 5 November 2010

1. Since nurse-led telephone follow-up is as effective as hospital follow-up and results in fewer hospital visits and diagnostic procedures, this should be welcome news and embraced, not dismissed out of fear [this thesis]
2. Nurse-led telephone follow-up with an educational group program is a cost-effective alternative to traditional hospital follow-up [this thesis]
3. Patients find it more important by whom they are seen in the follow-up than how often they are seen [this thesis]
4. The EQ-5D is an appropriate measure of health-related quality of life in breast cancer patients [this thesis]
5. Successful implementation of a new guideline for breast cancer follow-up requires a paradigm shift among both patients and doctors
6. The next generation of studies should evaluate individualized follow-up care considering clinical, patient and economic outcomes
7. It is questionable whether it is ethical to follow-up breast cancer patients solely to collect data for medical training and research purposes
8. The appropriate use of cost effectiveness analysis is as a decision-assisting tool, as opposed to a decision-making one
9. Far better it is to dare mighty things – even though checkered by failure - than to dwell in that perpetual twilight that knows not victory, nor defeat (Theodore Roosevelt)
10. A positive attitude makes all the difference in the world (Unknown artist, MoMA, New York)