Women with ovarian cancer, even those who present at advanced stage, often achieve long overall survival and receive multiple treatment regimens. Physicians and patients must carefully consider and balance treatment toxicities and quality of life when selecting treatments in this population. Previous qualitative and quantitative work demonstrates that patient-physician communication is an essential element in determining treatment course and a discussion about goals and values should precede all treatment decisions.

Objective: To develop a patient-centered priorities assessment tool (PAT) that could be completed quickly and easily in the waiting room immediately prior to appointments to streamline communication, enhance treatment discussions and increase patient satisfaction.

**METHODS**

We designed a one page PAT utilizing the validated ovarian cancer symptom index (NCCN-FACT FOSI-18) combined with an index to assess daily quality of life priorities that may be impacted by treatment side effects (Figure 2).

The PAT was distributed to women with ovarian cancer in small focus group settings and online, followed by a post-activity feedback form.

**RESULTS**

Thirty-six women completed the PAT and thirty-five completed the post-activity feedback form between September 2015 and May 2016. All participants reported that the PAT was easy to understand and comprehensive in scope. Thirty-four (94%) participants completed the PAT in under 15 minutes, with most (n=29/81%) completing it in 5-10 minutes. Most participants (n=31/86%) were able to stratify their priorities and identify five top treatment-related priorities.

Participants who indicated their goals and priorities had changed since diagnosis (n=26/72%) reported that the PAT helped them to identify current goals and priorities (n=22/26 or 85%) and that the PAT would help them feel more comfortable participating in shared decision-making with their medical team (n=21/26 or 81%). Two participants asked to take the PAT with them to their next clinic appointment.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- A PAT that combines current symptom index with daily quality of life priorities was easy to complete and viewed as comprehensive and useful in a pilot cohort of women with ovarian cancer.
- Use of a PAT has the potential to enhance communication, promote shared decision-making and improve patient satisfaction while maximizing efficiency of limited appointment time.
- A pilot of this PAT in gynecologic oncologists’ offices is ongoing.

**References**