

Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition | POLA







Lithuanian Cancer Patient Coalition POLA

- One of the largest umbrella non-governmental organisations in Lithuania
- Operational since 2012-01-03
- Uniting **30 oncology-related NGOs**, including cancer patients' societies and organisations, providing assistance to people affected by cancer
- Representing community of 30 000 cancer patients, who applied for POLA card membership and are registered in the POLA database



POLA mission:

improve quality of life of cancer patients and their caregivers and grant them more joy of living

- We represent and protect interests of cancer patients in public authorities in various areas of policy making
- We educate the society on how to reduce the risks of developing cancer
- We teach patients how to actively engage in their treatment process
- We organise free seminars, training, various therapies and conferences dedicated to patients





Kartu sveikti lengviau

BOARD MEMBERS

- **1. Gediminas Žižys** POLA president since March 20th, 2022, resposible for patients' rights advocacy; former POLA Vice-President, also founder of Lithuanian Society of Prostate Cancer
- 2. Virginija Šetkienė POLA Vice-President cooperation with other NGOs, implementation of cancer prevention programs and early diagnosis, raising awareness of POLA and access to our services in rural areas;
- **3. Virginija Kuršvietienė** questions of POLA awareness in the regions, common projects with municipalities
- **4.** Jūratė Matikovienė responsible for nursing and patients' home care issues
- **5. Stanislava Mickevičienė** dissemination of cancer prevention programs, engaged work with municipalities and communication issues
- **6. Jurga Misevičienė** incontinence issues, medical aid, patients' skin care issues, including assistance to patients with stoma
- 7. Paulius Rakštys POLA fundraising issues, also questions of assistance and information to Ukrainian oncology patients who have withdrawn from the war

ADVISERS

- 1. Šarūnas Narbutas POLA Senior adviser for patients' rights advocacy (lawyer, life sciences expert, former president of POLA 2013-2020)
- 2. Richard Cervin POLA adviser for palliative care issues

DIRECTOR

Neringa Čiakienė – former volunteer of POLA, Board member of POLA (2015-2018), experienced manager, former diplomat, expert in EU affairs and horizontal coordination



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7 employees



80 active volunteers



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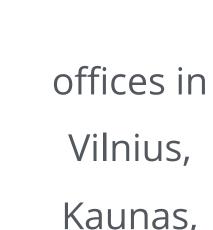


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JŪRATĖ POVILAVIČIENĖ Project Coordinator























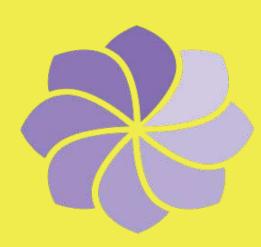












Main Initiatives

4. COMMUNITIES ON FACEBOOK

- Since 2020 more than 3400 persons diagnosed with breast, lung, prostate cancer and melanoma were brought together to active and caring patient communities on Facebook

1. POLA CARD

- POLA card project is implemented since 2013
- POLA card is membership card for POLA community (cancer patients and their family members), serving as a loyalty and discount card providing a possibility to engage into the programmes of POLA and its partners
- 130 business partners and 80 cultural institutions providing discounts

5. PATIENCE ADVOCACY

- POLA is actively engaged in legislative process by indicating the problems and proposing solutions
- POLA takes part in working groups, commissions, different working bodies of state institutions

2. SEMINARS, THERAPY SESSIONS

- POLA provides free education for cancer patients and their caregivers on different subjects
- During 2021 27 online events (3452 participants), 57 events (478 participants) were held

3. EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS, BOOKLETS AND LEAFLETS

- POLA educational videos and booklets and leaflets aim is to provide qualified and practical advice on various issues relevant to cancer patients

6. ENSURED TAILORED ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WITH INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

- POLA provides community members with the personalized help they need: offers free specialist consultations on legal issues, also consultations of psychologists, advice on lifestyle and nutrition.

7. POLA MOBILE APPLICATION

- POLA app allows POLA card holders to quickly and conveniently track the side effects of their illness or treatment, as well as anonymously compare side effects with other patients with the same diagnosis



EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

PURPOSE

To provide competent and practical information on specific patient-relevant topics.

9 DIFFERENT TOPICS (DURATION ~15 min.)

- (1) Tips on improving patients' health litteracy
- (2) Exercises for the management and prevention of hands and legs lymphedema and peripheral neuropathy
- (3) Tips on taking care of a family member who is in a severe condition
- (4) Nutrition after gastric removal surgery
- (5) Stoma: care and tips
- (6) Oral health: care and tips
- (7) Oncologist advice: lymphedema
- (8) Oncologist advice: nutrition
- (9) Oncologist advice: Tamoxifen treatment

All videos are posted on the POLA website:

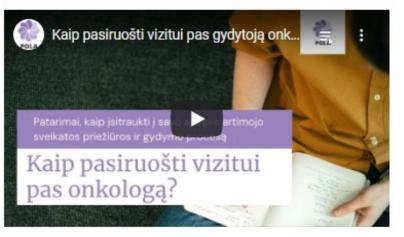
https://pola.lt/pagalba-sau/

pola.lt/pagalba-sau/#sveikatos-rastingumas













Also on social media Facebook, Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXpEbs_Jjv9huuwCQtT6t4A

https://www.facebook.com/POLAasociacija

POLA administrated Facebook closed groups:

Gyvenimas sergant krūties vėžiu,

Gyvenimas sergant melanoma,

Gyvenimas sergant prostatos vėžiu,

Gyvenimas sergant plaučių vėžiu



EDUCATIONAL BOOKLETS

CONTINUED INITIATIVE

Content – based on "Macmillan Cancer Support", "Cancer Research UK", a book "Life after Cancer", information of Ministry of Health

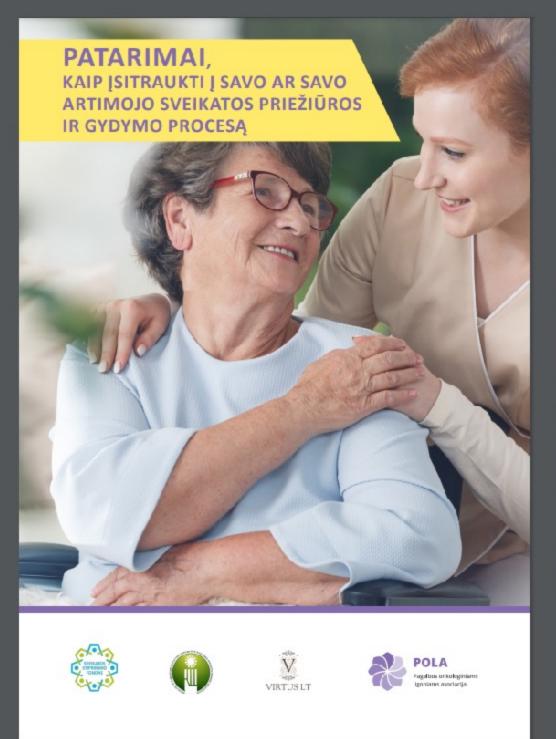
5 NEW BOOKLETS

- 1. Tips on how to be active member of health care team during and after treatment.
- 2. Health of bones
- 3. Nursing and supportive medical care services at home, palliative care for oncology patients
- 4. How to recover after cancer treatment: exhaustion and tiredness; deterioration of concentration and memory; mood swings and anxiety; nausea and vomiting; oral care; dry mouth; change in taste and smell; swallowing disorder; diarrhea; constipation; hiccups
- 5. How to recover after cancer treatment: lymphedema management; skin care and radiotherapy; skin care and chemotherapy; nail damage and chemotherapy; cracked lips and herpes; urinary incontinence

E-VERSIONS OF BOOKLETS

All e-versions of booklets are being sent by e-mail to our database, also published on POLA website: https://pola.lt/pagalba-sau/

Hard copies delivered to POLA members, volunteers, Public health bureaus, Disability and working capacity assessment offices.













www.pola.lt/pagalba-sau









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EN

RU

Pagalba sau

POLA mobilioji programėlė

Bendra informacija

Edukaciniai video

Edukaciniai leidiniai

Apie leidinius

Patarimai apie gyvenseną

Kaip atpažinti vėžio simptomus

Apie diagnostiką ir gydymą

Slauga, paliatyvi pagalba

Renginių medžiaga

Gydymo metodai

Tyrimų metodai

Prevencija

Renginiai

POLA el. parduotuvė



















PROVISION OF INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Cancer patients and their relatives face various difficulties. They require the advice of professional lawyers (for social and financial assistance), as well as individual counseling from psychologists, nutritionists, and lifestyle experts to improve their physical and emotional well-being.

Since 2017, POLA provides with free advice for cancer patients and their families.

Consultations provided in 2021:

Psychologist	330
Nutritionist	270
Evaluation of other treatment options	50
Legal	207

https://pola.lt/konsultacijos/





CANCER PREVENTION VISUALS



Kasmet Lietuvoje nustatoma beveik 900 naujų skrandžio vėžio atvejų.

Dažniausiai pasireiškia 60-75 m. amžiaus žmonėms, tačiau vis dažniau suserga ir jauno amžiaus pacientai.

Antra mirties priežastis pagal dažnumą tarp visų sričių vėžio tiek pasaulyje, tiek ir Lietuvoje.

Pradžioje ši liga nebyli, simptomai nejuntami - kas antram pacientui nustatoma jau išplitusi liga.

Nepavėluok pasitikrinti, kreipkis į savo šeimos gydytoją.



















Thank you!





7th Annual Masterdass