

O3_A2_A_Scientific Evidence

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE - HANDLING COLLUSION

Q1	Is the use of open question versus close questions better in facilitating communication between patients with cancer or other progressive illnesses and their doctor/nurse, etc.?
Patients	Patients elderly and/or frail and/or end of life indications in a palliative facility Frail, aged, end of life adults
Intervention	Open question
Comparator	Closed question
Outcome	Core outcome measures:
Methodology	Systematic reviews Randomized controlled trials Cohort studies Registry studies
Extra	Planned subgroup analysis E.g. 1. Diabetes status

Studies: no clinical studies

Conclusions: There were now clinical studies to sustain the assumption.

References: more search is necessary.

Q2	Are patients with cancer who are not told about their diagnoses/illness better at maintain hope throughout the trajectory of the diseases compared with patients who are told the truth?
Patients	Patients elderly and/or frail and/or end of life indications in a palliative facility Frail, aged, end of life adults Children in a palliative facility
Intervention	patients with cancer who are not told about the illness
Comparator	patients with cancer who are told the truth
Outcome	Core outcome measures: Psychological outcomes (maintain hope)
Methodology	Systematic reviews Randomized controlled trials Cohort studies Registry studies

<p>Extra</p>	<p>Planned subgroup analysis E.g. 1. Diabetes status</p>
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Comments:

Of 1,251 Americans indicated that 96% wished to be told if they had a diagnosis of cancer, but also that 85% wished, in cases of a grave prognosis, to be given a realistic estimate of how long they had to live (Washington: United States Superintendent of Documents, 1982:119.).

Indications:

How bad news is discussed can affect the patient's comprehension of information, satisfaction with medical care [3-4], level of hopefulness [5], and subsequent psychological adjustment (6).

Conclusion: Outcomes are related to the way of communication of the bad news not telling or withholding the truth

References

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4. Roberts CS, Cox CE, Reintgen DS et al. Influence of physician communication on newly diagnosed breast cancer patients' psychologic adjustment and decision-making. *Cancer* 1994;74:336-341.
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