

Experience with the participation of cancer patients in the shared decision making (SDM) - Qualitative research

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Objective

Nowadays, shared decision making (SDM) is one of the important paradigm in clinical healthcare. SDM is a process by considering patients' preferences to reach healthcare decisions. However, there are few medical personnel using SDM to make decisions of healthcare. This study aims to understand the experience of cancer patients participating in the shared decision making of medical communication.

Methods

This study was conducted in a regional teaching hospital of about 800 beds in northern Taiwan. We applied qualitative phenomenological research methods approaches to investigate of cancer patients aged over 20 years. During January 15 to April 30, 2018, a total of 25 cancer patients were enrolled for face-to-face qualitative interviews by semi-structured interview guide in-depth interviews to understand the patients' experiences and feelings in participation of SDM in medical treatment, and to translate and analyze the data word by word.

Keywords: cancer patient, shared decision making, experience

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Result

Themes	Subthemes
It was hard to make decisions for major therapy	(1)They were shocked by the diagnosis (2)They were unfamiliar with medical treatment
Professional support was the most important factor	(3)Adequate medical information could assist in decision making (4)Encourage and positive support could be their motivations
SDM developed respective healthcare process in decision-making. Besides	(5) They are the masters of their own bodies (6) Try their best to regain the confidence of decision-making and face the future positively

Conclusion

Medical care involves higher professional knowledge. Patients are difficult in making decisions on treatment. Medical institutions shall aim to improve patients' health knowledge, so that patients can develop relevant health awareness, knowledge, and ability, and enhance their participation in SDM. In the SDM implementation process, in addition to encouraging patients and their families to have autonomy in fully understanding the state, the nursing staff must also help them understand the responsibilities and results. In this process, the medical team must "partner" identity, accompanied by all the way, this will help to improve the relationship between medical care and satisfaction, and thus achieve a both win care for both doctors and patients.

