Effects of the source in communicating (social) comparison information. Study 2 of the project: Evidence based development of patient education information to be provided through different media to increase quality of life in cancer patients.

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The goal if this study is to find out what the most effective source of the (social) comparison information is when it comes to increasing quality of life and decreasing negative emotions.

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Pending
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON31431

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
Effects of the source in communicating comparison information.

Condition

- Other condition

Synonym
Quality of life in cancer patients

Health condition

Psychologische gevolgen van kanker

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Kankerbestrijding (KWF)

Intervention

Keyword: computer-tailoring, quality of life, social comparison

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Three weeks and three months after participants were send the social comparison

information, they will be send self-report questionnaire to assesses quality of

life and their level of (daily) negative emotions.

Secondary outcome

No secondary parameters

Study description

Background summary

Cancer patients who are discharged from the hospital after a curative treatment transit to a next difficult phase: Weeks or months after discharge social support declines, the fear of reoccurance of cancer is manifest and problems with social and societal roles become saillient. In this phase the quality of life is threatened. In this study a method to support quality of life will be developed and tested. The method consists of communicating (social) comparison information to the patient.

This proposal concerns study 2 of the larger project. In study 1 is was tested which type of social comparison information was the most effective for whom in

increasing quality of life. In study 2, the relevance of the source of the information will be addressed: the patient or the psychologist. As in study 1, patients will receive the information in the form of an interview with a patient or a psychologist. The patient will provide a testimonial of the personal experience with cancer while the psychologist will tell about how patients in general experience cancer. It is expected that people high in social comparison orientation will benefit the most from the patient as a source while patients low in social comparison orientation will benefit the most from the psychologist as a source. The information will be offered in audio-format (on CD-Rom).

Results of study 1

In study 1, patients who finished treatment for cancer no longer ago then 6 months were assigned to one of four conditions. In the first condition, patients received a CD-Rom with an interview with a fellow-patient, telling a personal story on (only) the emotions in reaction to having cancer. In the second condition, the CD-Rom contained an interview with a fellow-patient, telling a personal story on (only) coping with cancer. In the third condition, a fellow-patient told a personal story about emotions as well as about coping. In the fourth (control) condition, patients received a CD-Rom with quiet gitar music.

The results, three months after having sent the audio-materials, can be summarized as follows. With regard to three outcome measures, quality of life, negative emotions and positive emotions, the results showed that the four conditions differed significantly ($p<.05$). The data showed that: 1) the only-emotions and the only-coping conditions were significantly more effective than the music condition; 2) the combination condition (emotions as well as coping) was no more effective than the music condition. These results, firstly, show that we are able to influence quality of life (and emotions) in the desired direction. Secondly, not all social comparison information is effective, so it matters what information we provide patients with.

Study objective

The goal if this study is to find out what the most effective source of the (social) comparison information is when it comes to increasing quality of life and decreasing negative emotions.

Study design

In this study, participants will be assigned to 1 of 4 conditions. In condition 1, patients receive the social comparison information that was the most effective in study 1. That is, on the basis of individual differences they will

receive the type of information (coping, emotions or the combination) that led in study 1 to the largest increase in quality of life. In conditions 2, 3, and 4, a specialized psychologist will tell about how patients in general experience cancer. In the three conditions, the psychologist will address the coping, emotions or the combination of both, respectively. Thus, the central test of study 2 is between the most effective patient testimonial and the most effective information from the psychologist.

Before the information will be send, participants are asked to fill in a questionnaire assessing background variables, such as disease history and socio-demographic variables. Three weeks and three months after they received the information the follow-up measurement will be conducted.

Intervention

The (social) comparison information consists of the personal testimonial from a fellow-patient or information on how patients in general experience cancer, told by a specialized psychologist. The information will be in audio-format (approximately 20 minutes).

Study burden and risks

Physically, the present study will be no burden to the patient.
Psychologically, the burden will be minimal as we know from earlier studies that the similar information can increase quality if life.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age
Adults (18-64 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Cancer patients who have been discharged from the hospital within the past 6 months because their curative treatment was finished.

Exclusion criteria

Age below 18

Study design

Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Health services research

Recruitment

NL
Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated):	01-01-2007
Enrollment:	240
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL13915.042.06