Discussions of Life Expectancy Estimates & Illness Understanding

An examination on the influence physician-patient prognostic discussions have on the accuracy of patient illness understanding & patient capacity to make informed decisions.

The Study

N=178

An NCI sponsored study which examined 178 patients with advanced cancer whom oncologists expected to expire within 6 months. Patients were interviewed before (Pre-scan) and after (Post-scan) a visit in which cancer restaging scan results were discussed.

Pre-Scan:

5% had COMPLETE illness understanding, before the restaging scan visit.

38% NEVER reported that they had discussions of prognosis/life expectancy with their oncologist.

10% ONLY reported that they had discussions of prognosis/life expectancy with their oncologist.

Post-Scan:

44% reported increase in complete patient illness understanding after restaging scan visit.

28% of patients reported +1 or +2 improved illness understanding after restaging scan visit.

INSIGHT:

Patients with advanced cancer who report recent discussions of prognosis/life expectancy with their oncologists come to have a better understanding of the terminal nature of their illnesses.

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By The Numbers

Powered By Research
Driven By Patients

Source: