

Student Name: Opal Caldwell

Research Topic: Sense Making of the Diagnosis

Annotation Form for (each) Journal Article

Citation Information

Author(s)	Rebecca H. Lehto, PhD, RN, OCN
Year [month, day] of publication:	July, 2011
Title of article:	Identifying Primary Concerns in Patients Newly Diagnosed With Lung Cancer
Name of Journal:	Oncology Nursing Forum
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Doi # [if present]:	10.1188/11.ONF.440-447

Answer the following questions about the article.Write in complete (thought-out) sentences. **This should be graduate-level work!**

What did the researchers set out to find? In other words, what was their overall purpose? Why did they conduct this study?	This study was conducted to assess concerns of newly diagnosed lung cancer patients before surgery and after receiving a surgical procedure to amend their illness. Researchers set out to determine if any parts of the health care environment reduced patients concerns or cancer-related worry. They questioned patients about different coping mechanisms after being diagnosed with a devastating illness. Patients responses were compiled and listed in the study.
What theory or concept was applied? What framework (or lens) did the authors use to build an argument/ justification for their research?	Person-environment cognitive map theory was used in this study. Cognitive maps were used to structure the patient's perceptions in their specific situation. Researchers focused on how environment, specifically the health care environment, plays a critical part in assisting patient's development of adaptation to their diagnosis. How health care associates get and stay involved and guide patients with their diagnosis is a major factor in patient's treatment/recovery. Oncology nurses and other health care associates are vital to

	patient's psychological state beginning with their diagnosis and ending with their recovery.
List any and all research questions or hypotheses.	The aim of this study was to examine concerns and illness perceptions of patients who were newly diagnosed with operable, presumed curable, lung cancer prior to and 3-4 weeks post operatively. The second aim listed in the study was to examine illness related worry patients, diagnosed with cancer, experience and determine if health care workers and/or the health care environment could lesson those worries.
What methods were used to test their RQ/hypotheses?	The methods used for this study were a repeated- measure, mixed method design. The researchers examined how worry played a role on patient's cognitive understanding of illness in newly diagnosed lung cancer. Content and frequency analysis and explanatory statistics were used to illustrate data. Correlation studies and paired t test were used to verify relationships among the main study variables. The instrument used to collect data was the conceptual content cognitive map (3CM). The 3CM measures cognitive content, process, and structure. Participants were asked to write down important factors related to their diagnosis and prioritize those factors in a meaningful way.
Who were the participants? Include # of participants & all demographic info.	The study was comprised of 34 adult participants ages 47-83 who were evaluated for thoracic surgery following a new diagnosis of early stage, non-small cell lung cancer. Location was a veteran's affairs hospital and regional cancer center in the Midwestern United States. Sixty percent of the participants were men. Ninety-seven percent were Caucasian and three percent were African American. Ninety-seven percent had a history of smoking. Nine of the participants were current smokers at the time of their diagnosis. Most of the participants received a lobectomy for stage one or stage two of their disease process. Two of the participants received a staging of three in their disease process after undergoing their surgical procedure that was previously staged two.
What were the key findings of the study? List any/all important conclusions.	The findings in this study suggest that patients strive to remain positive in light of their new diagnosis of amendable cancer. Health care providers aid patients in facing their diagnosis by addressing their concerns about their disease process. Patients need to feel that their health care providers will address their concerns and listen to their needs pre and post surgical treatment.
How does this article relate to your specific area of cancer/ communication research? I.e., how	This article addresses the needs, concerns, and fears of newly diagnosed cancer patients. This article intrigued my interest because there are responses from patients listed in the article. Patients were able to express their feelings and researchers documented those responses in one of the charts. Such responses as what patients do to

does this article connect to spirituality or humor or whatever your emphasis is?	stay active, being positive, questions they had about their diagnosis and treatment plans, patients thoughts on death, fears, communication and information, negative and positive support, recovery, smoking, spirituality, and symptoms and pain. Researchers also discussed how patients mind and thoughts weighed on their adaptation and outcomes of their diagnosis and recovery.
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Annotation is...

Choose One:	Sub-standard	Satisfactory	Exceeds Expectations
Comment(s):			