

Supplementary materials

Table 1: Difficulties and fields of problems (Patients)

Category	Sub-category	Quotes
Communication and conflicts	Accusation and avoidance	,The question if it was a fault or not, have questioned it that often, but nobody is able to answer it [...]. My brother grumbled when he drove me here, ,argh' he said ,(Name), why did you smoke? [...]That comes up above all.' [Pat. 2: 207] ¹ ,We don't talk about dying at all. I'm not even allowed to come up with it, they will immediately say ,Father (well) [...] it goes on'. ' [Pat. 3: 345- 349]
	Therapy and general practitioner	,He [brother] wants to hale me to an alternative practitioner, I refuse to go there, I'm already served by the doctors (1). ' [Pat.5: 182] ,[...] In fact at home it comes to quarrel, as she says I'll finally have to choose another general practitioners, I say: I feel to be in good hands.' [Pat. 8: 297]
Home and everyday life	Impact of chemotherapy/ weakness	'I would love to stay in bed the best, I'm like, I'm always so tired, yes, and ... don't have any [...]. It's hard for me, as I always have been active and now I'm so 'puh'. ' [Pat.7: 21] 'Growing pains, down the legs down to the toes, Similar to

¹ Pat= Patient, the numeral represents one patient-relative dyad each, the following numbers represent the line number references within the software Atlas.ti

		<p>thousands of nails. You almost go crazy. This furry feeling on your feet, over and above my few sleep.' [Pat.5:546]</p> <p>,All my life I went swimming, now not anymore [...] I drove by bike and walked straight through, all this is quite reduced. And it hurts, you know, I did serious sport and now I'm a handful..., actually this is hard.' [Pat.7: 9]</p> <p>'As I've always been very active, when you can't do almost anything, this is cruel.' [Pat. 2: 147]</p>
	Mood swings/ emotional weakness	<p>'It depends on your state, you know? If you feel miserable you're also more irritable.' [Pat.5: 602]</p> <p>,As well in case of chemotherapy, you start in a good temper and every step you take or every half hour, you have to wait longer, you become even weaker.' [Pat.5: 610]</p>
	Admit nursing service	<p>'Whereupon I have difficulties in defining my expectations towards them [Nursing service].' [Pat. 6: 440]</p> <p>'In the same time it means, saying ,Yes', it's a hint of further deterioration for me. And fortifies the feeling of being dependent. So I can say it's not as easy to bear as I thought.' [Pat. 6: 444]</p>
	Get along alone	<p>,These are particular times, when I'm alone. Where I'm worried about. – Sure, we are able to phone sometimes my wife and me, but that's the problem, too – I don't want her to be too busy with my problems, you understand? So that she cannot do her</p>

		work anymore.' [Pat. 6: 428] 'Despite all of that, the doctor now told me that living alone won't be an alternative anymore.' [Pat. 2: 123]
	Financial aspects	'[...] in case of having early retirement, it would be very difficult to keep the house and to compensate a loss of the practice when she becomes ill, that wouldn't work, for sure. So there is a certain pressure to get well again. [Pat. 8: 173]
Thinking about cancer	Worry about deterioration	'[...] but a broken brest-vertebra, I had no need for it- yes, this I have to work with first – swallow it until I'll be able to handle it.' [Pat. 8: 13] [...] before conversation I felt naught [...] after the two cycles of chemotherapy [...], to be honest, I was afraid [...] if it is reasonable to continue therapy [...]. This was even worse.' [Pat. 4: 321-337]
	Loss of family members/ friends	'He fighted for four years. When he worked before, he had twice of my figure – and in the end... the same as I now. – He was simply used up. - - And this dragged me down for a few days.' [Pat. 8: 241]
Treatment trajectory	Long waiting hours (while receiving chemotherapy)	,As well in case of chemotherapy, you start in a good temper and every step you take or every half hour you have to wait longer, you become even weaker.' [Pat.5: 610] ,When the infusion is finished, I'm glad [...] to be able to go. Sitting there for half an hour or hour [...] It's all to much, you

		know? You leave in the afternoon after having spent your day there since 7 a.m.' [Pat.5: 574-578]
	Discontinuity of attachment figures	'Often you deal with another physician from one time to the other – I experienced it as adisadvantage in summation. [...] from my patient's point of view, I have the feeling, that the physician, he or she, doesn't know me yet.' [Pat. 6: 376]

Table 2: Difficulties and fields of problems (relatives)

Category	Sub-category	Quotes
Communication and conflicts	Opinions and advices	,I had a complete negative position, because everyone gave me this negative feedback (what might be the reason for me to treat others with reserve), where everyone told me he would die soon anyway[...]“ [Rel.8: 468] ² „[...] when it is disclosed in your family or social life, everyone comes up with 1000 tips and then you first have to say: ‘Hey guys, thanks a lot, but information overflow.’ I stopped this completely [...]‘ [Rel.5: 103]
	Therapy and general practitioner	,I would have tried another approach, [...] I would have combined it with [complementary medicine]. [...] this [...] even strenghtens the feeling of powerlessness [...]‘ [Rel.5 :43] „He [...] is not my general practitioner, so I wouldn’t go to him. [...] Therefore I can’t understand why she goes to him[...] he’s just that cool and full of distance. [Rel.2: 586-590]
	Social isolation	, <i>But there are friends, aren’t there?</i> Yes, not many, some are afraid I guess, I don’t even know, since my husband became ill, contact was interrupted.’ [Rel.1: 27-29]
Home and everyday life	Impact of chemotherapy/ weakness	,He’s just concerning fitness, my husband is fit but due to losing weight and staying in hospital for three weeks, this has affected, all the muscles and so on [...]“ [Rel.4: 193] ,It must not be something real greasy, he becomes nauseous at once [...]. Because logically, if there is

² Rel= Relative, the numeral represents one patient-relative dyad each, the following numbers represent the line number references within the software Atlas.ti

		<p>nothing left, it's really bad then, it feeds upon the wrong places. I guess that's the reason for him to be so tired all the time.' [Rel.7: 61]</p> <p>,[...]these energy drinks. With admixture, but he won't be able to swallow it. [...] This is a contentious point, we cannot understand and he [Son] keeps saying 'Let's try it out', see? And he buys 40 of them and at home they are and he [Patient] says, he cannot... he cannot drink it.' [Rel. 4: 177]</p>
	Mood swings/ emotional weakness	<p>,[...] there are burdens, he isn't able to bear anymore in his situation. Half the night he sat down in this common room and these things they take his strenght, [...] the next day you almost aren't able to talk to him anymore.' [Rel. 6: 93-97]</p> <p><i>'Which situation means horror in particular? In fact the day of chemotherapy, [...] then he suffers from strong headache, becomes aggressive in parts, yeah, these mood swings.'</i> [Rel.3: 149]</p> <p>,[...] I already know today I have to go through something. When he finishes at three o'clock, [...] he almost jumps from the seat, he doesn't withstand it, too. And again, this is what drives him crazy and mad. His nerves are on edge, yes.' [Rel.5: 241]</p>
	Admit nursing service	<p>'[...] to impose no one, as this is a topic, I realized my husband is very busy with [...] he mulls over it [...]' [Rel. 6: 213]</p> <p>,[...] you have to stand it, there are borderlines which are exceeded [...] with strangers, this is something new[...] if they are professional carers, it's another situation anyway.' [Rel. 6: 213]</p>
	Meet obligations/ manage individual things	It affects my life relevant as I have other plans in fact. I

		wanted to drop out of work space and wanted to do more spiritual work [...] this lets me to a dead end street, as I haven't got an answer yet. As I told, I have personal problems [...].“ [Rel.5: 135]
	Poor health	,Me for myself I have poor health, I proposed a motion for pension [...] I'm waiting for the pension scheme's answer. The social court will come to a decision as the pension provider refused the motion.' [Rel.5: 7]
Thinking about cancer	Worry about deterioration	,There's no ways to say: is it half a year, is it within the next eight weeks, indeed, this is our question somehow. Is there something moving or going on within the next eight weeks of chemo break – that's when you have two days of stomach pain then.' [Rel.3: 727]
	Loss of family members /friends	'[...] I had a brother who died from lung cancer. When he turned 60, but he smoked 30 cigarettes each day for 40 years, that wasn't such a surprise, yes, my husband says he often has to think of him and... [...]' [Rel. 4: 117] , <i>Did you have the feeling: Oh God, again? Didn't you?</i> So I really have to admit, yes, as my daughter lost her first baby only half a year before.' [Rel.3: 71-73]
	Uncertainty	,On the other hand I think, I can't let her go alone, after all the time close together. I really don't know how to handle it.' [Rel. 2: 178]
	Bad news	,[...] and up to this, I hadn't absorbed one thing yet, as it wasn't that much time, only four month now... and then you already have to be confronted with another – for me it is – well [...].“ [Rel.1: 5]
Treatment trajectory	Long waiting times (while receiving chemotherapy)	,The worst for the patient are the long waiting times of course.' [Rel.7: 45]

		<p>,There are endless waiting times outside the rooms, [...] your nerves are on edge anyway and if you only have a number then [...] in this situation with all your questions you arrive with [...] it's just inhuman, it's not good.' [Rel.5: 59]</p>
	<p>Discontinuity of attachment figures</p>	<p>'20 people, caring for one patient, they're not able to know all the time what should, or what might be allowed [...]' [Rel.7: 95] ,[...] And then one of the physicians brought up the possibility to operate. This was an option the one before had negated consequently. It made us feel insecure [...] So, this led to confusion, yes, and to a kind of mood of my wife, that doesn't subserve in this phase.' [Rel.9: 22]</p>

Table 3: Resources and support (Patients)

Category	Sub-category	Quotes
family	Family in general	,Family is able to keep me grounded.' [Pat. 1: 129] 'They [family members] all bolster me up.' [Pat. 4: 389] 'And then there is my son, standing by my side, it's amazing.' [Pat.7: 45] ³
	closeness	'She [wife] is happy, if it's possible to stay nearby and I'm happy for her to stay nearby, this was like a blessing for the week now.' [Pat. 1: 545]
	Support: organizational behavior	,The children will go past the house every day [...] and they'll empty the letterbox.' [Pat. 4: 661] ,She [wife] is better informed about everything.' [Pat. 4: 449] My wife is like the driving force, [...] Medicine and all the things, it's her who arranges it, 'cause I would maybe rather like to forget this.' [Pat. 4: 441-449]
Professional caregivers	Nursing staff	Sunday evening one of the male nurses [asked] 'Do you want your wife to stay?' I said ,Yes I do'. [...] Within five minutes, everything has been organized.' [Pat. 1: 553-557]
	Psychologist	,Sunday evening talked with the nursing staff and Thursday morning the psychologist arrived. [...] Was very fast [...] was very good. Yes, again any time.' [Pat. 1: 625-629]
	Doctors/general practitioners	,The physicians are a positive aspect [...] You can talk to every one of them, they'll always answer your questions, [...] they'll tell you everything.' [Pat. 3: 809-813] ,In case of having a question he [senior physician] is always there, as well if you need him. And a physician anyway.' [Pat. 4:

³ Pat= Patient, the numeral represents one patient-relative dyad each, the following numbers represent the line number references within the software Atlas.ti

		829] ,I don't have any problem with the general practitioner at all. There is a good relation. He cares for me.' [Pat. 1: 269]
Social life	Friends and neighbors	Friends of sport and other friends are there of course, always when I need them.' [Pat. 4: 601]
	Sports club	,I work out at olympia staging post [...] I would like to have strenght.' [Pat.7: 9] ,On Monday evenings we do sport and now, I arrive a little bit later- we meet [...] colleagues and so we also do at the weekend.' [Pat.4: 629]
	Colleagues: commiseration	,[...] I was very pleased, the colleagues wrote me a card [...] This [...] points to me that I'm still wanted in my position.“ [Pat. 8: 217-221]

Table 4: Resources and support (relatives)

Category	Sub-category	Quotes
family	Family in general	<p>,[...] I keep saying I'm the ,glass-half-full'-character and he is the ,glass-half-empty'-character, [...] I keep trying to compensate for it.' [Rel. 6: 33]⁴</p> <p>,I have a son and a great daughter-in-law [...] everything okay. Good friends and the whole family supports us [...] surroundings are great [...]' [Rel. 4: 33]</p> <p>,There is an increase of consideration [within the family] [...].' [Rel.9: 58]</p>
	closeness	<p>,By now it seems to be of elementary importance for him that I'm there, [...] that's how he tells me as well, me being that important to him [...].“ [Rel. 6: 21]</p> <p>,[...] since then I'm in his room, they offered us a single room, put another bed in, and I'm there day and night... it's really great.' [Rel.1: 13]</p>
	Support and consideration	<p>,[...] I keep saying I'm the ,glass-half-full'-character and he is the ,glass-half-empty'-character, [...] I keep trying to compensate for it.' [Rel. 6: 33]</p>
Professional caregivers	Nursing staff	<p>,Then one [of the male nurses] said: ,What do you think about your wife staying here with you? [...]' He answered: ,In this case I'd be the happiest person ever.' [...] since then I'm in his room, they offered us a single room, put another bed in, and I'm there day and night... it's really great.' [Rel.1: 13]</p> <p>,[...] because in the moment I'm very occupied with all of that, then they'll [nursing staff] come and talk to me, often</p>

⁴ Rel= Relative, the numeral represents one patient-relative dyad each, the following numbers represent the line number references within the software Atlas.ti

		<p>they have caressed me, the one cries together with me, the others come to talk about other things, so... really great here.' [Rel.1: 29]</p> <p>,One of them [nurse] today: 'You know there are nursing services, [they are] acquirable day and night.' [...] you're not informed about these topics, especially if you haven't had it in your family yet.' [Rel.1: 133]</p>
	Psychologist	,[...] I even consider to have one [conversation with psychoncologist] after all, too, because this might be a special psychological care, and to ask some things, that might probably be helpful for me now.' [Rel.5: 85-87]
	Doctors/general practitioners	„[...] then we ended up at this lady and I have to admit her medical attendance was optimal, she tried everything within human power before, to get the diagnostic findings as fast as possible.' [Rel. 9: 14]
Social life	Friends and neighbors	,[...] I just have a big circle of friends. But they know, that I haven't got much time in the moment and it's okay.' [Rel. 2: 462]
		,We have really great and lovely neighbors who come up and want to cook something and bring it up [...] In case that something happened, they would be there. As well as to have conversations, it's just great.' [Rel. 8: 218]
		,We have a small circle of friends, but we are very close and it's not a taboo.' [Rel.9: 66]
	Special cancer sport classes	,It's good for her [mother] to at least go somewhere [...] even if she just exercises.' [Rel.7: 61]
	Colleagues: communication and flexible work plan	,[...] as well as the colleagues. [...] they ask, say 'Hey, what's up?'. [Rel. 6: 45]
		`[...] I am in a team where there's given plenty of rope same with my boss, from the beginning I kept saying,

		<p>maybe I need seperate days, maybe I'm out of work for some hours [...] It was no issue, the employer acted really well [...].' [Rel.9: 106]</p>
	<p>Work and pension</p>	<p>,I have time, don't need to hand in holidays. I can come and if he feels good we can depart [...]' [Rel. 2: 237] ,[...] I reduced work time down to a three days week to be more present for my husband [...] and it was as a matter of course for the colleagues to absorb it in a way.' [Rel. 6: 5-13]</p>