Palliative care: Designing a person-centered patient education tool

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Abstract

Palliative care improves patient health outcomes, but is often misconceived as end-of-life care. A didactic comic about palliative care is currently being developed to improve patient understanding and acceptance of palliative care in an engaging and approachable manner. Formative pilot testing (see Figure 3) will be conducted to inform the visual and narrative design of the comic.

Target audience:
Adult patients who qualify for palliative care and their caregivers.

Comic format:
32-page 5.5”x8.5” full color printed booklet. May be made available electronically.

Materials & Methods

- Table of contents:
  - Patient narrative about first visit to palliative care clinic
  - Didactic narrative about palliative care

- Script
- Thumbnail sketches
- Clean drafts & layout
- Tone & color
- Final booklet

Participates: Adults in Canada and US (N = 45).

Pre-test questionnaires:
- Experience and Familiarity with Palliative Care Questionnaire²
- Palliative Care Knowledge Scale²

Exposure to intervention:
- Reading of comic draft

Post-test questionnaires:
- Palliative Care Knowledge Scale²
- Rating of visual appeal, usability, actionability of comic

Anticipated significance

The comic produced in this project may be a useful alternative or addition to traditional methods of disseminating information about palliative care to patients and caregivers. Future evaluations should be conducted with a patient and caregiver population to validate the comic’s effects on their perceptions of palliative care.

References