

Older Adults with Advanced Cancer are Selective in Sharing and Seeking Information with Social Networks

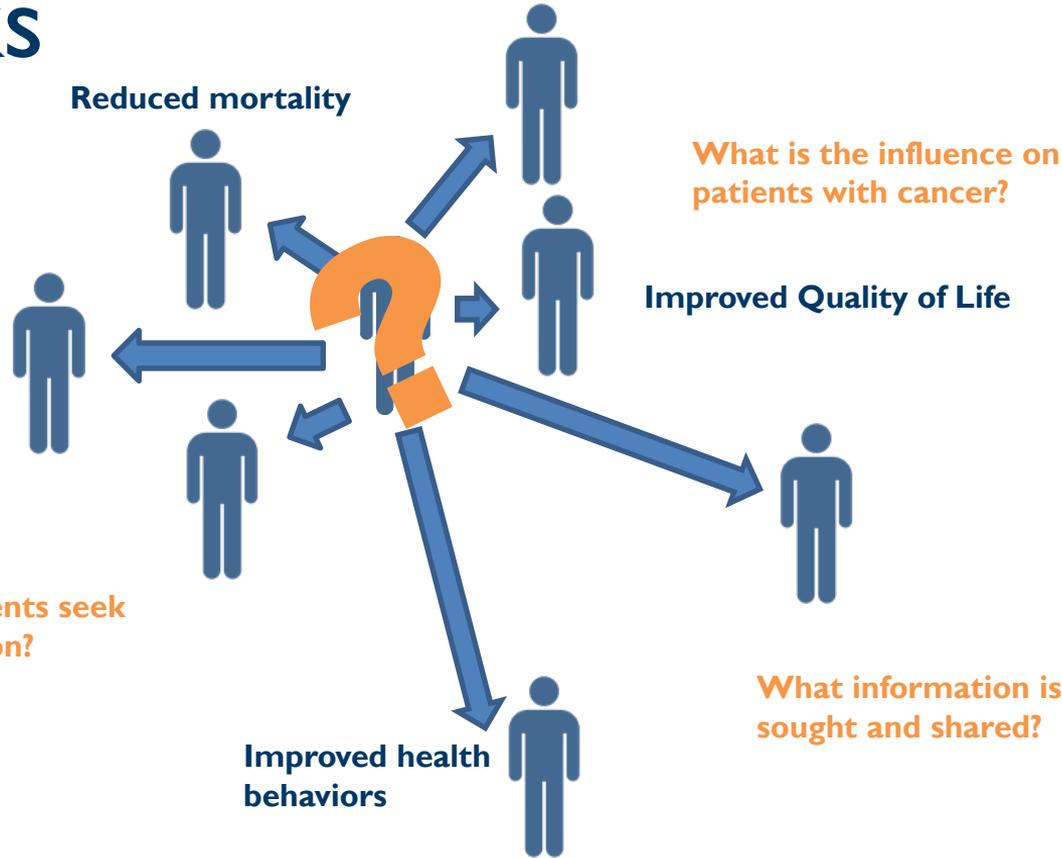
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Older Adults with Cancer and Social Networks

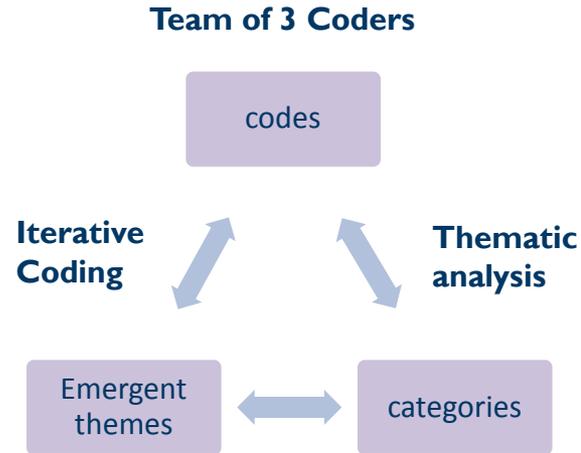
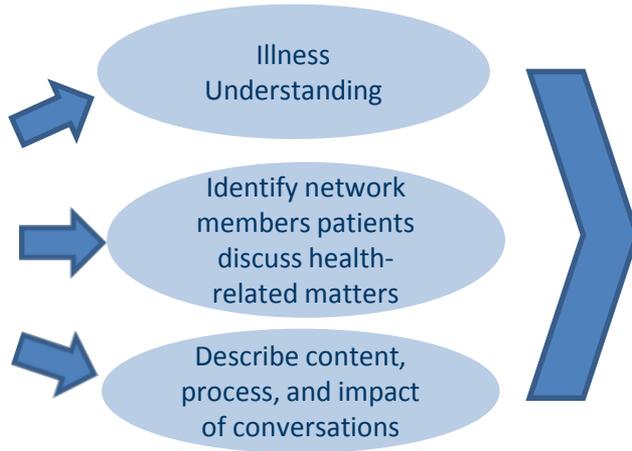
What roles do network members play?



Methods and Sample

Qualitative Study
-Semi-structured
interviews asked
about:

Sample
29 Patients 65+
with advanced
cancer
18 Social
Network
Members
identified by
patient



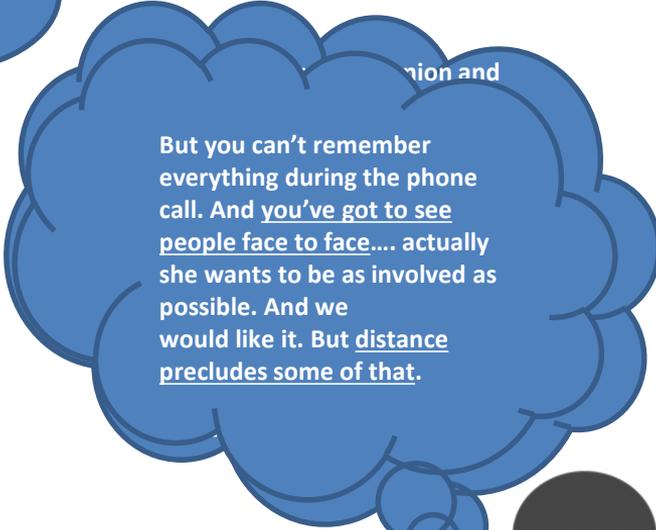
Selective Sharing Themes



Patient (P): Well, we talk every, talk every day...
Interviewer (I): And, and you mentioned she use to come to some of your, your appointments, here with you, too?
P: Uh-hm.
I: Okay. And how has she been of help to you?
R: Just being around.



**Medical Backgrounds,
Length of Relationship
Frequent Communication and
Instrumental Support/Reliability**



...ion and
But you can't remember everything during the phone call. And you've got to see people face to face.... actually she wants to be as involved as possible. And we would like it. But distance precludes some of that.



**Others with cancer
Geographical distance
experiences or chronic
conditions**

Comparing Perspectives

Interviewer(I): Have you shared details with them?

Patient(P): No, I told them I got lung cancer.

I: Just the basics.

P: Yeah.

...then we found out it was terminal, I would say we, um, we have, our conversations, when we do talk about it is much more frank.

Older Patient with Cancer



Social Network Member



Depth of Conversations

Comparing Perspectives

And anytime I talk about getting everything lined up for whatever, they shut me down...
...Um, she wants to be positive

Older Patient with Cancer



On his lower days when he's not feeling good, he get depressed. He wants to talk about getting things situated and finalized and I try to turn a positive spin on it and talk about the future

Social Network Member



End of Life Conversations vs.
Positivity

Comparing Perspectives

I asked B my son-in-law and I asked my oncologist myself, which would you recommend and why? I got my answers from why. They both seemed in agreement as well. I guess I would say I reach out in making decisions about treatment first to somebody with medical experience.

He is open to hearing it but it's up to him if he wants to follow it.

Older Patient with Cancer



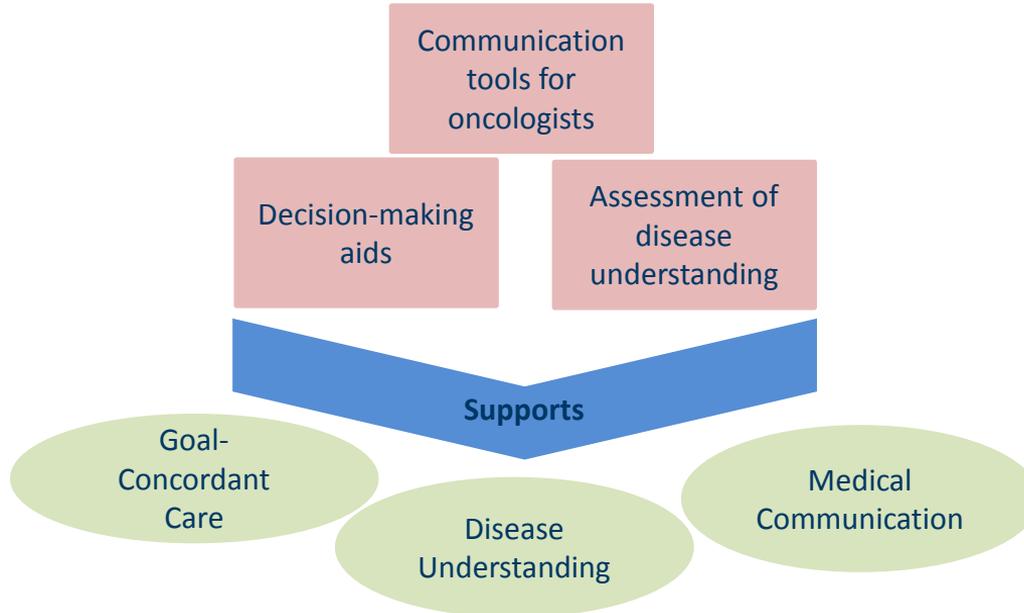
Social Network Member



Decision-Making

Conclusions and Implications

Increased understanding of contextual factors that influence selective sharing informs:



Acknowledgments

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