

PATIENTS' EXPERIENCES OF SELF-ADMINISTERING ANTI-CANCER MEDICATIONS RELATED TO ADHERENCE AND SIDE-EFFECTS MANAGEMENT – A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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METHODS Semi-structured interviews with patients with haematological cancer at an Australian metropolitan specialised oncology hospital, taking oral anti-cancer medicines at home. Comparative, iterative, and predominantly inductive thematic analysis.

RESULTS 25 patient participants (18 male, mean age 58)

Theme 1: Varied factors affect patient motivation for MA

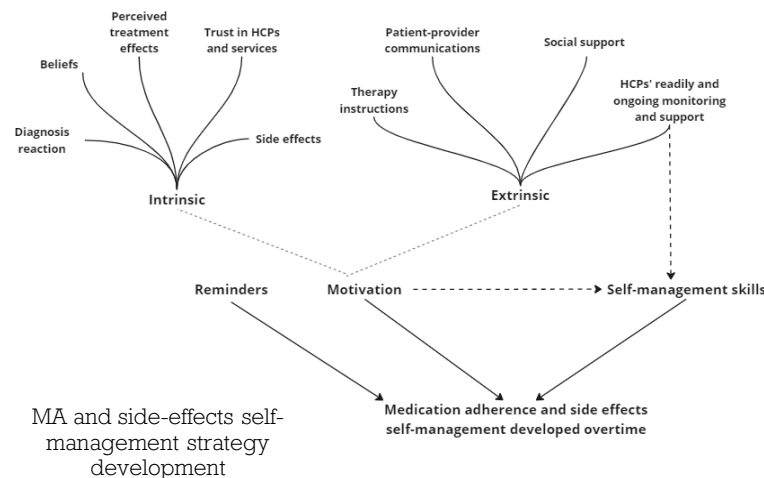
"she [nurse] makes me feel very anxious as well and she ignored my phone... she caused me confusion about a lot of things. I requested clarification, but she didn't want to reply, and she kept me waiting, I don't know, take the tablet, or don't take the tablet?" (P12, 57-year-old female, diagnosed with CLL)

Theme 2: When motivated, MA and side effect management strategies can develop over time

"If you're not consistent with it [taking medications], your body can start not to respond to it... and then you're potentially opening a whole lot of other problems for yourself. So that... even if the side-effects... were really bad, I probably wouldn't have a choice.... The best way I can deal with that is just to come up with ways to manage the side-effects." (P16, 34-year-old female, diagnosed with CML)

Theme 3: Further HCP support needed while managing MA and side effects

"[HCPs] can ring and say: 'How are you going?'. It just makes you feel more important... You want to make sure that all are going along. Then if they are not complied [with the medication], you just say: 'I notice you haven't been taking it. Is there a reason?'" (P5, 59-year-old female, diagnosed with CML)



INTRODUCTION

- Non-adherence to oral anti-cancer medications (OAMs) negatively impacts health outcomes and healthcare costs
- Patient-related factors affecting medication adherence (MA) are complicated and interrelated

AIM To explore patients' experiences, perceptions, and needs relating to MA and side-effects management when self-administering OAMs

Reference

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Questions?

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CONCLUSION

- Patients with cancer have varied needs for support to develop MA and side-effects self-management strategies
- MA motivation of patients with cancer can differ from those with other chronic conditions
- Oncology HCPs need to adapt their practices to meet patients' expectations
- A multi-component, technology- and theory-based intervention, incorporating regular HCP consultations to provide tailored education and support is proposed

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