

## Journal Watch – Psychosocial Issues & Quality of Life Issues – April 2018

**Article:**

Caregiver quality of life in advanced cancer: Qualitative results from a trial of early palliative care

McDonald J, Swami N, Pope A, Hales S, Nissim R, Rodin G, Hannon B, Zimmermann C.

Palliative Medicine. 2018; 32(1): 69-78

Article link: DOI: [10.1177/0269216317739806](https://doi.org/10.1177/0269216317739806)

**Review:**

**Strengths:** Previously limited area of research. Canadian study in population not dissimilar to ours. Rigorous qualitative approach; decent sample size given methodology; purposeful sampling for diversity; interview questions adapted as data collected; varied research team; variety in quote examples amongst participants.

**Weaknesses:** single tertiary centre, patients/caregivers are educated, English speaking, European background. ?Bias in selecting quotes that prove the rule?

**Relevance to Palliative Care:** Providing support to “informal caregivers” is a critical role of palliative care/pain and symptom control teams, so understanding the effects of this support is vital. Further research may better elucidate the precise parts of a palliative care consult that are the most valuable to the caregiver’s quality of life.