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


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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.