

SHARED VOICE

INDIVIDUALIZING PATIENT-CENTERED COMMUNICATION
FOR ADVANCED LUNG CANCER PATIENTS

VIDEO 4



Discussing End-of-Life Management

Featuring Dr. Walter Baile, Moderator, and oncologist panelists Dr. Corey Langer, Dr. Benjamin Levy, and Dr. Antoinette Wozniak

Video Synopsis

This video is an excerpt of a moderator-led panel discussion of the communication issues that may commonly arise around the time of disease progression and end-of-life planning; a prerecorded video of an end-of-life discussion between a hypothetical patient and her oncologist is presented and discussed by the panel.

Video Key Takeaways

- Balancing hope with realism is an important aspect of cancer care^{1,2}
- While end-of-life discussions are difficult for all involved, it is important for clinicians to be proactive in conducting these conversations at the appropriate time (eg, disease progression or rapid decline in performance status) and with the appropriate support system (eg, entire care team and the patient's family members)³
- Patients desire more engaged end-of-life discussions which should be individualized based on the patient's physical and emotional status, goals, and preferences⁴

Discussion Starters

- When a patient experiences disease progression, how do you manage expectations about the prognosis while maintaining hope?
- At what point do you initiate end-of-life discussions with your patients and who is included?
- What are some helpful strategies that you use when preparing for and conducting end-of-life discussions with your patients?

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Supporting the Conversation



Patients desire clinician empathy in addition to information



Medical consultations around progressive disease are characterized by patients needing *to know and understand* and *to feel known and understood*⁵

Patients may have a desire for more engaged discussions around end-of-life issues^{6,7}

References

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4. Levit LA, Balogh EP, Nass SJ, et al. *Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care: Charting a New Course for a System in Crisis*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2013.
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7. Pardon K, Deschepper R, Vander Stichele R, et al. Are patients' preferences for information and participation in medical decision-making being met? Interview study with lung cancer patients. *Palliat Med*. 2011;25(1):62-70.