



Comparison of Patients' receiving Palliative Home Care and their Caregivers' Perceptions on Palliative Care Problems and Needs.

A Greek pilot study.

Raimondou Iro,^{1,2} Katsaragakis Stylianos,² Giannakopoulou Margarita,² Patiraki Elisabeth^{1,2}

¹Palliative Care Unit GALILEE, Spata, Greece, ²National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Nursing, Athens, Greece

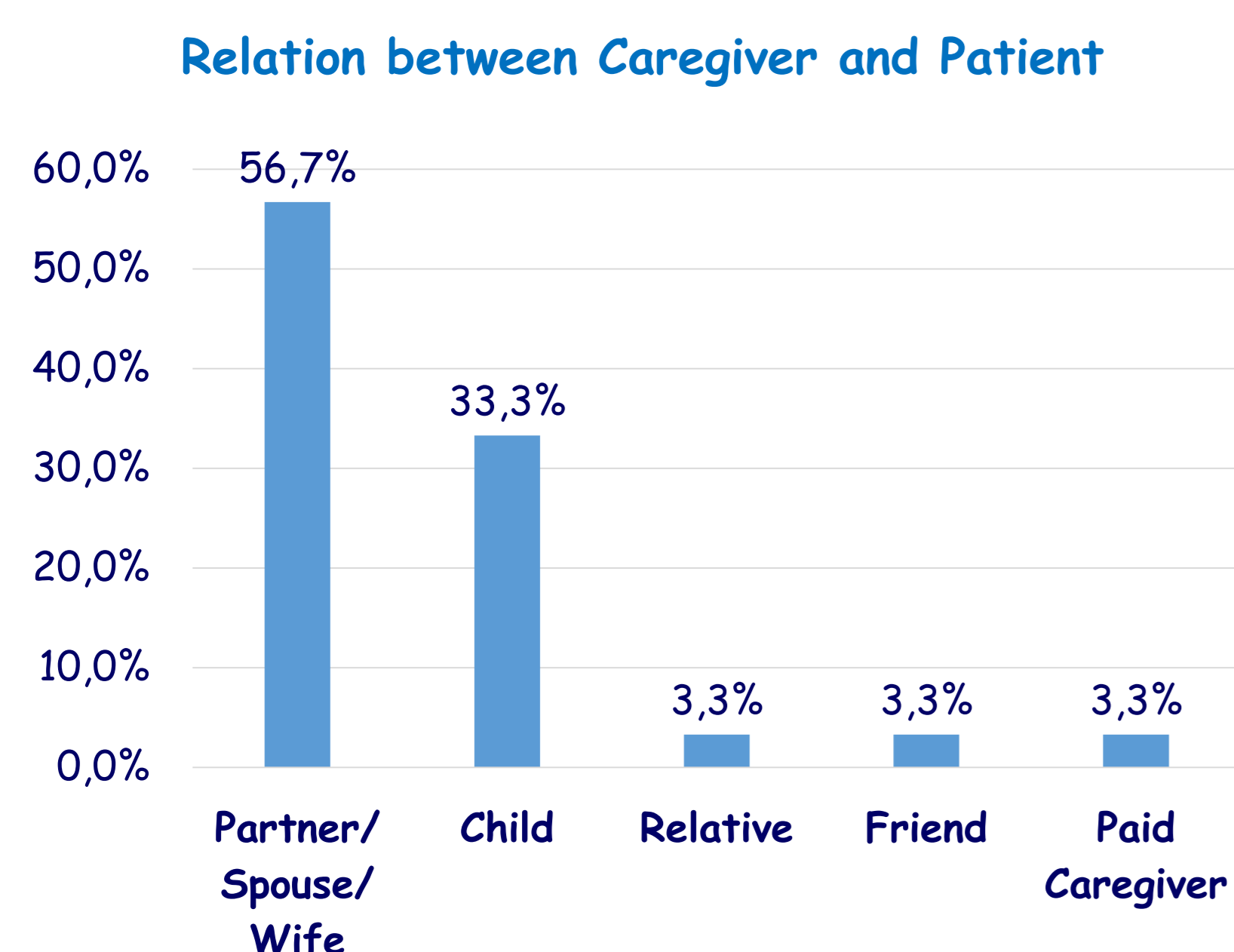
Background: Caregivers are an important component of palliative care in home setting. Their perceptions on patients' problems and needs are crucial in providing optimal palliative care at home.

This pilot study **aims** to compare the perceptions of palliative home care cancer patients and caregivers on palliative care problems and needs for care.

Methods: During July 2015–August 2016, a convenience sample of 30 cancer patients and their caregivers (response rate 54.5%) was recruited by a palliative home care service. Both patient and caregivers consented to participate. A Greek translated Problems and Needs in Palliative Care short version (PNPC-sv) was used (Cronbach's α : .83–.89): the 66 items 3 points Likert type scale is divided into 2 domains (Problems in Palliative Care (PP) & Need for Professional Assistance(NP)). Each domain includes eight areas: Daily Living (DL), Physical Symptoms (PS), Autonomy (A), Social (SI), Psychological (PI), Spiritual (SpI), Financial Issues (FI) and Need for Information (NI). Both patients and caregivers completed on the same day the PNPC-sv on two different times: on admission (T₀) and one month later (T₁). The statistical significance level was set at 0.05.

	Patients' demographic and clinical characteristics	Caregiver' demographic characteristics
	N (30) (%)	N (30) (%)
Sex		
Female	17 (56.7)	14 (46.7)
Male	13 (43.3)	16 (53.3)
Age (mean±SD) (range) years old	68.37±10.3 (49-88)	56.6±14.6 (28-84)
Marital status		
Married	18 (60.6)	20 (66.7)
Divorced	6 (20.0)	5 (16.7)
Window	5 (16.7)	-
Single	1 (3.3)	5 (16.7)
Children	28 (93.3)	23 (76.7)
Mean number of children (range)	1.6±.6 (1-3)	
Education		
Secondary education/ Highschool	14 (46.7)	19 (63.3)
Basic	12 (40.0)	5 (16.7)
University/ Technological	4 (13.3)	6 (20.0)
Living with		
Partner/ Spouse/ Wife	12 (40.0)	
Family	9 (30.0)	
Alone	5 (16.7)	
Other	1 (3.3)	
Cancer diagnosis		
Breast cancer	8 (26.7)	
Urological cancer	7 (23.3)	
Gastrointestinal cancer	5 (16.7)	
Gynaecological cancer	4 (13.3)	
Lung cancer	4 (13.3)	
Other	3 (6.6)	
Antineoplastic Treatment	10 (33.3)	
ECOG Performance status (Mean ± SD (range))	2.2±.8 (1-4)	
Restricted (1)	6 (20.0)	
Ambulatory (2)	13 (43.3)	
Limited self-care (3)	10 (33.3)	
Completely disabled(4)	1 (3.3)	
PPS Performance status (Mean ± SD (range))	64.±13.5 (30-90)	
Stable	16 (53.3)	
Unstable	13 (43.3)	
Terminal	1 (3.3)	

SD Standard Deviation



Conclusions

It is encouraging that overall caregivers' perceptions were in agreement with patients' ones. Further research is needed to better explore the differences between caregivers' and patients' perceptions.

Authors have no potential conflict of interest to report

Presenting author:

S. Katsaragakis, stkats@nurs.uoa.gr

Comparison of Patients and Caregiver responses of PNPC-sv on admission (T₀)

	Patient Mean ± SD	Caregiver Mean ± SD	z	p
Daily Living (DL)	0,9±0,7	0,8±0,57	-0,45	0,65
Need for Professional Assistance DL	0,4±0,5	0,4±0,55	-0,67	0,50
Physical Symptoms (PS)	0,9±0,4	1,0±0,51	0,8	0,42
Need for Professional Assistance PS	0,8±0,4	0,8±0,52	-0,54	0,95
Autonomy (A)	1,4±0,7	1,3±0,65	-1,41	0,15
Need for Professional Assistance A	1,0±0,8	1,2±0,77	-0,62	0,53
Social Issues (SI)	0,6±0,6	1,4±0,59	-1,4	0,15
Need for Professional Assistance SI	0,4±0,7	0,3±0,48	-0,78	0,43
Psychological Issue (PI)	1,2±0,6	1,4±0,59	-1,57	0,11
Need for Professional Assistance PI	1,1±0,7	1,4±0,65	-2,36	0,01
Spiritual Issues (SpI)	1,1±0,6	1,2±0,63	-0,8	0,42
Need for Professional Assistance SpI	0,9±0,8	1,2±0,70	-1,74	0,08
Financial Issues (FI)	1,1±0,5	1,1±0,58	-0,35	0,71
Need for Professional Assistance FI and Need for Information (NI)	0,7±0,9	0,7±0,81	-0,06	0,95
Need for Professional Assistance NI	0,8±0,9	0,9±0,79	-0,83	0,40
Need for Professional Assistance NI	0,7±0,1	1,0±0,93	-1,87	0,01

Higher values indicate a greater problem and a higher need for professional attention.

Higher values indicate a greater problem and a higher need for professional attention. At baseline, statistically significant differences were found only on NP for PI (z=-2.4, p=.01) and NI (z=-1.9, p=.01). Caregivers responded that patients needed more professional help for Psychological Issues and Need for Information than patients.

Comparison of Patients and Caregiver responses of PNPC-sv one month later (T₁)

	Patient Mean ± SD	Caregiver Mean ± SD	z	p
Daily Living (DL)	0,9±0,7	1±0,76	-0,15	0,40
Need for Professional Assistance DL	0,3±0,33	0,31±0,4	-0,28	0,77
Physical Symptoms (PS)	0,5±0,28	0,7±0,4	2,66	0,01
Need for Professional Assistance PS	0,5±0,27	0,55±0,4	1,54	0,13
Autonomy (A)	1,4±0,54	1,4±0,65	-0,66	0,50
Need for Professional Assistance A	0,9±0,5	0,9±0,5	-0,58	0,56
Social Issues (SI)	0,5±0,51	0,4±0,45	-2,12	0,03
Need for Professional Assistance SI	0,3±0,41	0,3±0,34	-0,44	0,66
Psychological Issue (PI)	1±0,53	1,1±0,54	0,98	0,33
Need for Professional Assistance PI	0,8±0,44	1±0,55	-1,37	0,16
Spiritual Issues (SpI)	1±0,50	1±0,5	-0,07	0,94
Need for Professional Assistance SpI	0,6±0,50	0,7±0,5	-1,2	0,22
Financial Issues (FI)	1±0,60	0,9±0,6	-2,3	0,01
Need for Professional Assistance FI and Need for Information (NI)	0,4±0,55	0,2±0,7	-1,2	0,22
Need for Professional Assistance NI	0,6±0,73	0,5±0,73	-0,57	0,56
Need for Professional Assistance NI	0,3±0,52	0,4±0,57	-1,2	0,19

Higher values indicate a greater problem and a higher need for professional attention.

One month later caregivers reported that patients experienced more Physical Symptoms, but less Social Issues and less Financial Issues than patients.