

Listening to the Patient: An Important Tool at the Pain Clinic of a Brazilian Cancer National Institute



Castro-Arantes, Juliana (PhD)¹, Lo Bianco, Anna Carolina (PhD)¹, Haber, Grace²

1-Psychologists, Body and Finitude Research Groupe INCA/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

2- Physician, Body and Finitude Research Groupe INCA/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

julianacastroarantes@gmail.com

A working tool: to listen
Working through the suffering
The professionals subjectivity

INTRODUCTION

One's body conception when affected by an illness modifies the subjectivity, causing psychic malfunctions, that not only brings suffering but impairs the oncological treatment. A resource to facing problems is **listening to what the patient says**, since the body and the psychic dimensions are made possible by their relation to what is said.

OBJECTIVES

Listen to the spoken expressions of the patients in order to help them going through the illness experience and imminent death, as **a living desiring subject** not just as an object of multiple interventions.

METHODS

Patients were heard during their routine attendance at the clinics of the Brazilian National Cancer Institute. What was listened by the professionals was taken note of for further discussion by the research team in view of the psychoanalytical theory of **unconscious desire and drives**. Then the discussed and organized material was used a tool to guide further consultations.

RESULTS

According to Evaluation Non-structured Interviews, both patients and professionals reported important effects in the way patients are leaving through the experience, and this concerns not only the cooperation with the treatment, but the subjective involvement with one's own suffering. Another important observed point concerns the implications brought to **the professionals own subjectivity**.

CONCLUSION

Listening to the patient was considered an important tool that implies the desire and drives of the patient, therefore his subjectivity. This tool can be regarded as a crucial means to giving patients the proper conditions to **working through the suffering** brought by illness and its consequences.