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Breast cancer: how to announce the diagnosis ? Announcement Process

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The Announcement Process

- has been developed since 1998
- requested by patients suffering from cancer
- to improve the conditions of announcement of the diagnosis



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**Announcement of Cancer
=
trauma**

Losses and changes

- Grief / Immortality
- Loss of control/autonomy
- Identity injuries, self-image change
- Role of patient with family
- Modification of temporality



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Announcement Process: 2 major principles

1. Every patient with cancer should benefit from a standardized announcement process.
2. Multidisciplinarity and empathy with patient and family are major points for a successful process and to improve patients' experience.



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Announcement Process: Objectives

- To inform and support patient and family
- To respect patient's desire to know and its ownership's rate
- To involve the patient in therapeutic decision

Pluridisciplinarity



Announcement Process : Measure n°40 of Plan Cancer



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Multidisciplinary approach of the disease and psychosocial outcome

The announcement Process includes 4 steps:

- 1. the Medical consultation**
- 2. the Nurse consultation**
- 3. The Support care**
- 4. The collaboration with the GP**



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1. Medical consultation

- To announce/confirm the diagnosis of cancer or recurrence
- To announce the therapeutic strategy (planned by MDM)
- To introduce the other involved medical teams (medical oncologists, clinical oncologists...)



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Breast surgeon in the presence of specialist nurse,
psychologist...

- Quiet place,
- Empathy
- Confident patient
- Explanation with simple words
- Well understood?
- Time: 34 to 70 minutes



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2. Nurse consultation

Key role of the coordination of the process

- **Re explanation of the diagnosis and therapeutic strategy** (with simple words, providing more information...)
- **To check the understanding of patient**
- **Familial, professional, psychosocial assessment**
- **Analysis of patient's experience**
- **Prothesis, underwear**
- **Associations of patients**
- **Visiting the department and introducing the staff**
- **To refer to psychologist, dietetician....**

→ Report of the nurse consultation



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Training in Announcement Process

- 100% of the staff involved in paramedical consultation has been trained.

- **Institutional training (AP-HP)**
 - Module 1: Generalization of Announcement Process (1- 2 days)
 - Module 2: Paramedical consultation (2 days)



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3. Support care

Support care teams

- Psychologist
- Pain team
- Dietician
- Beauticians
- ...



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4. In collaboration with the GP

Information of the GP (operating notes, MDM report...)
is required for

- **Security** for patient
- **Continuity of care**

→ Network to develop



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To conclude...

- The Announcement Process appears to be of a great benefit for patient as well as for medical and paramedical teams.
- Recent assessment by the National Institute of Cancer:

Pending results...