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
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
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.
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

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
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...
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
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
- Prosthesis, underwear
- Associations of patients
- Visiting the department and introducing the staff
- To refer to psychologist, dietetician...

→ Report of the nurse consultation
Training in Announcement Process

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

- Institutionnal training (AP-HP)
  - Module 1: Generalization of Announcement Process (1-2 days)
  - Module 2: Paramedical consultation (2 days)
3. Support care

Support care teams

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

HEGP
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
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...*