

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

2013	PhD (Dental Sciences) McGill University
1999	MSc (Restorative Dentistry) Helsinki University, Finland
1994	BDS Bangalore University, India

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

- Best graduate poster, Table Clinics, McGill University, 2012
- CIHR Strategic Training Program in Applied Oral Health Research, Canada, 2009-2011
- The Alpha Omega Foundation of Canada, 2010
- FODQ Scholarship, 2009
- Faculty of Dentistry Studentship, McGill University, Canada, 2008
- Outstanding Graduate Student, Helsinki University, Finland, 1998

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer reviewed article:

1. D'Souza, V., Blouin, E., Zeitouni, A., Muller, K., & Allison, P. J. (2013). An investigation of the effect of tailored information on symptoms of anxiety and depression in Head and Neck cancer patients. *Oral Oncol*. doi: 10.1016/j.oraloncology.2012.12.001
2. D'Souza V, Watson E, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Allison PJ Information provision in head and neck cancer care – a qualitative study – submitted to Journal of Psychosocial Oncology.
3. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Muller K, Allison PJ. Do multimedia based information services increase knowledge and satisfaction in head and neck cancer patients – submitted to Patient Education and Counseling.
4. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Muller K, Allison PJ. Anxiety and depression in partners of the head and neck cancer patients – a pilot study examining the impacts of a tailored information package (Manuscript in preparation).
5. Humphris G, Freeman R, Campbell J, Tuutti H, D'Souza V. Further evidence for the reliability and validity of the Modified Dental Anxiety Scale. *Int Dent J* 50(6):367-70, 2000 December.

Selected published abstracts:

1. D'Souza V, Hovey R, Lee V. Symposium: Interdisciplinary conversations, collaboration, and research on the cancer care experience. Qualitative Health Research Conference, Montreal, October, 2012.
2. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Muller K, Allison PJ. Importance of Tailored Information in Head and Neck Care. UICC, World Cancer Congress, Montreal, August 2012.
3. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Allison PJ. Tailored Information and its Benefits in Head and Neck Cancer Patients. MASCC/ISOO, MASCC, International symposium on supportive care in cancer, New York, June 2012.
4. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Allison PJ. Tailored Information and its Benefits in Head and Neck Cancer Patients. Canadian Association for Psychosocial Oncology conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2012
5. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Allison PJ Knowledge Change in Head and Neck Cancer Patients Following Information Provision. Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology, Toronto, 2011
6. D'Souza V, Blouin E, Zeitouni A, Allison PJ Information Provision Improves Knowledge in Head and Neck Cancer Patients. General Session and the Annual meeting, IADR, San Diego, 2011
7. D'Souza V, Tuutti H, Suomalainen K, Murtomaa H. Dental anxiety among Indian children with different socio-demographic status. 4th joint meeting of IADR, Warsaw 2000.



McGill
Faculty of Dentistry



Ph.D. Defense

Violet D'Souza

*Information and its Importance in Head and Neck
Cancer Care*

Monday, February 11, 2013

10:30am

*Oral Health and Society Research Unit
Room 102*

3550 University St., Montréal (Qc) H3A 2A7

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Paul Allison
Committee member: Dr. Carmen Loisel
Committee Member: Dr. Linda Edgar
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THESIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Thesis supervisor: Dr. Paul Allison
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ABSTRACT

Information and its importance in head and neck cancer care

Head and Neck (H&N) cancers are a diverse group of malignant tumors arising in the mouth, nose, pharynx and larynx. They are the 8th most common cancers in the world. Individuals who receive a diagnosis of these cancers often have enormous unmet informational needs. In spite of a large quantity of literature advocating the necessity to move from “one size fits all” to a tailored approach while providing information to cancer patients, the majority of hospitals provide information in an ad hoc manner. The primary aim of this study was to investigate the impacts of a multimedia based tailored information service on H&N cancer patients' anxiety, depression, satisfaction and cancer knowledge ratings. Our secondary aim was to describe and compare the experiences of H&N cancer patients' receiving information concerning their cancer and treatment at two hospitals with different approaches to deliver information. We used an embedded mixed methods research design within a non-randomized controlled trial within which we nested a qualitative study to address the aforementioned secondary aims. The project was conducted with stage III and IV H&N cancer patients at the participating hospitals. Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Review Board and the Local Ethics offices of the participating hospitals. The test hospital delivered the Multimode Comprehensive Tailored Information Package (MCTIP) and the control hospital received the normal care. A total of 103 individuals with H&N cancer took part in the quantitative study, out of which 96 participants completed baseline and all follow up evaluations. In the qualitative study, a subsample of 11 participants of the main study and 2 Nurse Pivots took part. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected concurrently. Our study findings show that the participants who received the test intervention experienced significantly lower levels of anxiety, had higher levels of cancer knowledge, were better satisfied with the information they received and had a good information provision experience in comparison to the subjects who received the normal care. Therefore, we conclude that MCTIP is a potentially beneficial adjuvant in H&N cancer care.

RÉSUMÉ

Les cancers de la tête et du cou (T & C), constituent un groupe hétérogène de tumeurs malignes qui se présentent dans la bouche, le nez, le pharynx et le larynx. Ils sont les huitièmes cancers les plus fréquents dans le monde. Les personnes qui reçoivent le diagnostic d'un de ces cancers ont souvent de grands besoins d'information qui ne sont pas comblés. En dépit d'une grande quantité d'écrits prônant la nécessité de passer d'une approche « à solution unique » vers une approche sur mesure tout en fournissant des informations aux patients atteints de cancer, la majorité des hôpitaux fournissent des informations de manière ad hoc. L'objectif principal de cette étude était d'étudier les effets d'un ensemble complet d'information sur mesure multimode (ECIMM) sur l'anxiété, la dépression, la satisfaction à l'égard des soins reçus et la connaissance du cancer chez les patients atteints de cancer T & C. Notre objectif secondaire était de décrire et de comparer les expériences des patients atteints de cancer T & C qui reçoivent des informations sur leur cancer et leur traitement à ceux de deux hôpitaux ayant des approches différentes de diffuser l'information. Nous avons utilisé des méthodes de recherche mixtes intégrées conçues dans un essai non randomisé contrôlé dans lesquelles nous avons imbriqué une étude qualitative pour répondre aux objectifs secondaires mentionnés précédemment. L'ensemble du projet a été mené auprès des patients atteints de cancer T & C de stade III et IV dans les hôpitaux participants. L'étude a reçu l'approbation éthique du Comité de protection des personnes et des comités d'éthiques locaux des hôpitaux participants. Un total de 103 personnes atteintes de cancer du T & C ont pris part à l'étude quantitative, à laquelle 96 participants ont reçu une évaluation au tout début de l'étude et des évaluations de suivi. Un sous-échantillon de 11 participants de l'étude principale et de 2 infirmières pivots y ont pris part à l'étude qualitative. Les données quantitatives et qualitatives ont été recueillies en même temps. Les résultats de notre étude montrent que les participants qui ont bénéficié de l'intervention ont connu des niveaux significativement inférieurs d'anxiété, des niveaux supérieurs de connaissances sur le cancer, sont davantage satisfaits de l'information qu'ils ont reçue et ont eu une bonne expérience pour ce qui fut de recevoir de l'information, si on les compare aux sujets qui ont reçu les soins normaux. Par conséquent, nous concluons que le ECIMM est un adjuvant potentiellement bénéfique pour les soins contre le cancer T & C.