

Inspiring success



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Woods, A. M. et. al. (2010) 'The brain tumor experience from the relatives' perspective', *Neuro Oncology*, 12 (Suppl. 3), p.52.

For details regarding the final published version please click on the following DOI link:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/neuonc/nog085>

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Results

Four superordinate themes emerged from the data including: discovery; communication; emotional reactions; and contextual factors. Participants discussed the importance of discovering the tumour, both in terms of getting a diagnosis, and learning about the tumour. The practice of disclosure and non-disclosure to others about the tumour diagnosis were also significant in the early illness experience. An important theme to emerge involved the participants describing what is difficult for them in the experience, and how they coped with this difficulty. The final theme placed the brain tumour experience within a wider context, where factors such as the relationship with the patient, relationship with professionals, and the hospital environment were described as significant.

Conclusions

This research detailed the early tumour trajectory and the salient processes involved in this journey. A framework was proposed to help conceptualise the findings of the study and could be used to aid health professionals to reflect on, and better understand, parts of the early illness experience in order to improve the care of patients and their families.