

## ABSTRACT WINTERMEETING 2011

<b>Topic:</b> <input type="radio"/> medical <input type="radio"/> nursing <input type="radio"/> psychosocial <input type="radio"/> functional – locomotor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> varia
<b>Presentation:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> oral <input type="radio"/> poster
<b>Title:</b> Perspectives of family members on planning end-of-life care in the older palliative patient
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<b>Abstract:</b>  <p><b>Purpose:</b> Advance Care Planning (ACP) is the process by which patients together with their physician and loved ones establish preferences for future care. This study aimed to get insight into the views and attitudes of the family members concerning ACP.</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 20 family members of elderly patients with a limited prognosis.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Up until now the analysis shows that the family member's position in the ACP process of their loved one is a continuation of their role in the existing relation. For instance family members who are used to give the patient the freedom to make his/her own choices will do so in end-of-life issues too. Other factors influencing the position of a family member are: acceptance of the nearing death of the patient, their own opinion about the benefit of ACP, trust in healthcare providers, and the burden of initiating conversations about death and dying. The role a family member prefers to have in the process of ACP doesn't always correspond to the way the patient involves the family member. In case of tensions, there appears to be an important role to play for the physician.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b> In order to assure the quality of ACP, healthcare providers should respect the long-lasting family dynamics. Furthermore to understand the family member's preferred role in decision-making at the end of life they should carefully explore their acceptance of the nearing death, their opinion about ACP, their trust in healthcare providers and the burden of initiating ACP.</p>