

**NS-03****The AYA box: a creative patient centered communication tool for use in adolescents and young adults with cancer**

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Aim: There is a growing recognition that taking care of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) is distinctive from that of children or adults.

A study has been conducted to explore the personal views of AYAs with cancer in order to get insight in their perspectives during treatment and survivorship. The integration of study results in a patient centered tool in order to enhance the communication with the AYA and the multidisciplinary team was a secondary objective.

Methods: A qualitative study based on the principles of Grounded Theory was conducted. Twenty four adolescents aged 15 to 25 years were interviewed. Interviews were transcribed and coded using NVIVO 7. Constant comparison was used to analyse the data. Datacollection and -analyse took place in a cyclic process.

Results: From the AYAs' perspective, cancer is something temporarily passing their life-path.

The diagnosis is a shock but their coping strategies are focused on preserving identity and guarding normal life. Three phases were identified: cancer freezes life - maintaining normal life is hard and cancer changed their life forever.

The AYA is the director in his treatment and customized information, social network, contact with friends, ... are key aspects in AYA care

A creative AYAbox has been developed to meet these specific needs and to enhance the communication with the AYA. The box belongs to the AYA and contains a booklet with revealing stories of AYAs' experiences, postcards, a unique AYA tag, stickers mentioning feelings or concerns, cards with information or instructions and smart aids in communication with their relatives and professional caregivers.

Conclusions: The results are translated in a practical and meaningful tool, based on the experiences of the AYAs, inspiring caregivers on our pediatric ward to provide patient centered care in accordance to the specific preferences and wishes of the AYA.