

## FAMILY SATISFACTION WITH END OF LIFE CARE FOR CANCER PATIENTS. RESULTS FROM A CLUSTER RANDOMIZED TRIAL

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### *Object of study*

*The main aim was to examine similarities and differences in satisfaction with care between 112 close family members to patients who had participated in an intervention with a comprehensive palliative care program, and 68 family members in a conventional care program (controls).*

### *Method*

*The satisfaction with care was measured by the FAMCARE Scale one month after the death of the patient. Differences in satisfaction with care between intervention and control respondents were examined by ANOVA and multiple regression analyses with additional control variables.*

### *Results*

*The majority of respondents reported high satisfaction with care. The close family members to the patients in the intervention group reported significantly higher satisfaction with care than those in the control group. This difference remained unchanged after controlling for other relevant factors.*

### *Discussion*

*The results were consistent with our a priori hypothesis, and those items where the greatest difference between treatment groups was recorded, covered exactly those areas where improvement was expected: information on prognoses and making plans ahead, information to family on pain and symptom management, family conferences, availability of both family and patients' physicians, and systematic symptom assessment.*

### *Conclusion*

*The results confirm that the intervention program succeeded at its intentions in improving palliative care compared to conventional care.*