Involvement in Decision Making and Satisfaction With Treatment Among Partners of Patients With Newly Diagnosed Localized Prostate Cancer

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Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among men in the United States (American Cancer Society, 2015; National Cancer Institute, 2014), with the vast majority (81%) of the diagnosed cases being localized and potentially curable (National Cancer Institute, 2014). Treatment decision making is a taxing process for patients with localized prostate cancer because of a large number of available treatment options (e.g., active surveillance, different types of prostatectomy, various forms of radiation with or without hormonal therapy) (National Comprehensive Cancer Network, 2015). For patients in a sexual relationship, healthcare providers treating prostate cancer commonly recommend that the patient’s partner be involved in treatment decision making (Boehmer & Clark, 2001). However, existing research often describes treatment decision making as a dyadic process between the patient and healthcare providers (Zeliadt et al., 2006), with little emphasis on partner involvement. Most descriptive (Berry et al., 2006; Diefenbach & Mohamed, 2007; Shaw, Scott, & Ferrante, 2013) and intervention studies (Berry et al., 2013; Lin, Aaronson, Knight, Carroll, & Dudley, 2009) about treatment decision making for prostate cancer have focused on the patients’ concerns and satisfaction with treatment decision making (Boehmer & Clark, 2001). However, existing research often describes treatment decision making as a dyadic process between the patient and healthcare providers (Zeliadt et al., 2006), with little emphasis on partner involvement. Most descriptive (Berry et al., 2006; Diefenbach & Mohamed, 2007; Shaw, Scott, & Ferrante, 2013) and intervention studies (Berry et al., 2013; Lin, Aaronson, Knight, Carroll, & Dudley, 2009) about treatment decision making for prostate cancer have focused on the patients’ concerns and satisfaction with treatment decision making. However, partners play an important role in how well patients with prostate cancer manage their illness (Ervik, Nordøy, & Asplund, 2013; Wooten et al., 2014; Wu, Mohamed, Winkel, & Diefenbach, 2013). Partners provide informational support (e.g., gathering information, helping patients understand information) and emotional support (e.g., comfort, companionship) (Laidsaar-Powell et al., 2013; Sinfield, Baker, Agarwal, & Tarrant, 2008; Srirangam et al., 2003; Street et al., 2010). Previous research found that some partners were completely excluded from the...