

Perceptions of healthcare professionals regarding the transition to a palliative approach to care in advanced heart failure

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Outline



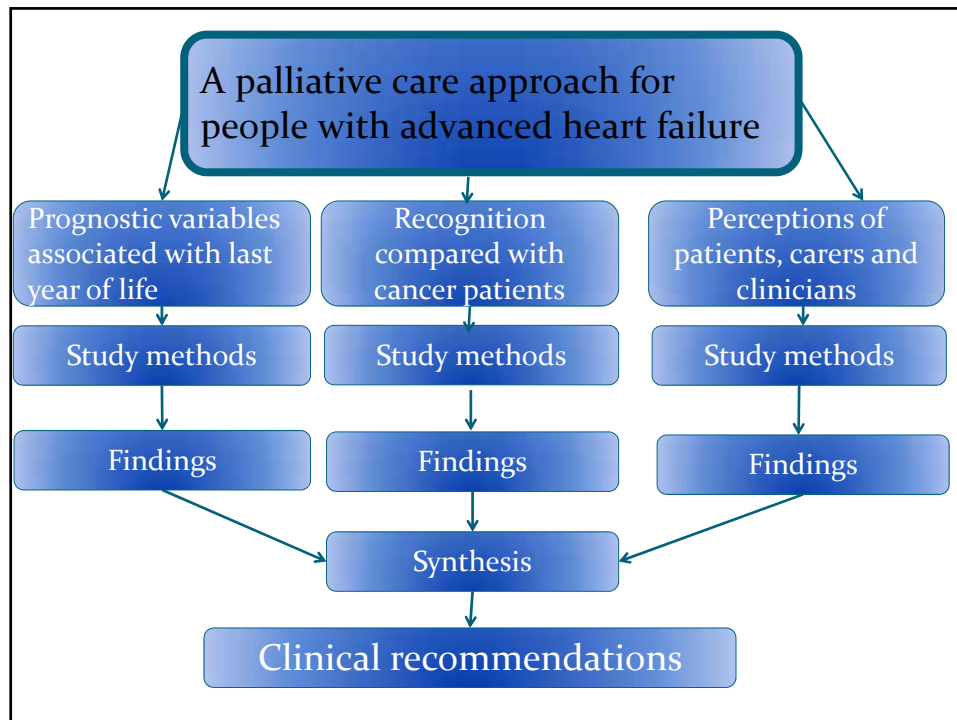
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- Background
- Method /design
- A few challenges!



Background





A palliative care approach for patients with heart failure

- Semi-structured interviews with patients and their nominated healthcare professionals where a palliative approach to care had been recognised.
- Clinicians appeared reluctant to discuss a palliative care approach without clear irreversible deterioration of the patient. However, heart failure palliative care patients welcomed, and some initiated, conversations regarding the change in focus of care.

Method/design

- Focus groups have been described as “*structured eavesdropping*” and are a powerful method for generating qualitative data. They are particularly useful for exploring group norms, group processes and how decisions are made.
- We therefore used focus groups to explore clinicians’ perceptions of decision making and communication regarding a palliative approach to care in more detail than the previous semi-structured interview study.

- What are clinicians' perceptions of decision making and communication regarding a palliative approach in heart failure?
- Stage of study: analysis



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Challenge one!



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- Practical issues of conducting the focus groups

- ...In particular scheduling, were overcome by conducting focus groups at times when the group would meet routinely, for example, teaching sessions or team meeting

- Seven focus groups with doctors, nurses and other clinicians with experience of caring for patients with heart failure and palliative care needs from cardiology, general practice and specialist palliative care were conducted.



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Challenge two!



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- Recording interactions and group dynamics and analysing this to facilitate understanding of the thematic data.
- Mixed method research, intergration

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Thank you

Any questions or comments?

