

QUALITATIVE RESPONSES TO PAIN BETWEEN COUNTRIES

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Aim: Cross- (and within-) cultural variations in clinical practice can have an impact on professional- patient interaction; implicate beliefs about health, illness and expectations for the professional- patient relationship, and health communication preferences.

Methods: This cross-sectional international survey collected the self-reported views of patients using a specifically designed questionnaire developed from issues relevant to patients captured through focus groups. Results were obtained for 2018 patients from 15 different countries across Europe, North America and Australia, with a mean age of 68.6 years (st dev 15.4), and a mean wound duration of 19.6 months (st dev 51.8). When asked two questions related to reducing pain at dressing-related procedures, responses were given by 1523 patients in relation to their own/ carers' involvement, and by 1344 patients in relation to health care professionals' involvement.

Results: 40.4% of patients felt that neither they nor their carer or health care professional could do anything to ease the pain experienced during dressing related procedures. However, it is not clear as to whether this was due to patients' feeling resigned to the situation and the treatment provided or due to not knowing of anything that could benefit them. Further, many patients made suggestions in relation to the procedure and handling of the wound to reduce discomfort and pain; wanting careful and gentle treatment, to soak/ moisten the dressing before removal, to be consulted, listened to, communicated with and distracted from the dressing related procedures, not having the wound touched or scrubbed, to have consistent quality of care, for the procedure to be carried out slowly, for the wound to be washed with water and to have the dressings changed regularly.

Conclusions: These results highlight the importance of identifying and incorporating a patient's concerns into their goals for treatment, participants involved in the treatment, and patterns of communicating health information to improve and facilitate positive health outcomes.