# Evaluation of Dyadic Psychoeducational Interventions for People with Advanced Cancer and their Informal Caregivers (DIAdIC): An international randomized controlled trial

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Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitment stoppedHealth condition typeOther conditionStudy typeInterventional

## Summary

#### ID

NL-OMON52263

#### Source

**ToetsingOnline** 

**Brief title**DIAdIC-trial

## Condition

Other condition

## **Synonym**

advanced cancer, cancer

#### **Health condition**

oncologische aandoeningen

## Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Horizon2020

## Intervention

**Keyword:** advanced cancer, informal caregivers, Palliative care, supportive care

## **Outcome measures**

## **Primary outcome**

The primary endpoints are emotional functioning and self-efficacy of both the person with advanced cancer and the family caregiver at t1.

## **Secondary outcome**

The secondary endpoints are: quality of life of the patient and caregiver, benefits of illness, coping, dyadic communication, ways of giving support at t1. All listed primary and secondary outcomes at t2 and formal healthcare use and costs at t1 and t2

## Study description

## **Background summary**

Despite the serious problems that advanced cancer involves for patients and their family caregivers, there are few interventions that target both the patient and the family caregiver to self-manage these problems. Dyadic interventions, i.e. targeting the patient and family caregiver together, are more likely to result in better outcomes for both parties than single target interventions and are more cost-effective.

Consequently, interventions focusing on the quality of life of both the patient and the family caregiver (i.e. the dyad) are necessary to promote their well-being, reduce their burden and avoid unnecessary economic costs of end-of-life cancer care.

## Study objective

The overall aim of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and mechanisms of action of two psychoeducational interventions: a face-to-face nurse-led intervention called FOCUS+ and an eHealth intervention called iFOCUS. These interventions are aimed at improving the emotional function and self-efficacy of patients with advanced cancer and their family caregivers.

Specific objectives:

- (1) To compare the face-to-face FOCUS+ intervention and the iFOCUS web intervention with care as usual in terms of their:
- Effect on the emotional functioning and self-efficacy of patients with advanced cancer and their family caregivers (primary outcomes),
- Effect on participants appraisal of the illness, uncertainty, hopelessness, coping, dyad communication, quality of life and healthcare resource use
- Cost-effectiveness
- Effects on vulnerable subgroups (particularly women and those with a of lower socioeconomic status)
- Effectiveness in different healthcare systems
- (2) To evaluate the implementation process of the interventions in terms of the acceptability, feasibility, usefulness as perceived by patients, family caregivers and healthcare staff in each country, and their mechanisms of action.

## Study design

This study is an international multicenter three-arm randomized superiority trial.

#### Intervention

The face-to-face intervention: FOCUS+

Delivery mode and dose

This intervention will be provided to patient-caregiver dyads after they completed the baseline measurement (T0) and were randomly allocated to the face-to-face intervention. The face-to-face FOCUS+ intervention is a home-based intervention consisting of two 90-minute home visits and one 30-minute telephone session, conducted by a trained intervention nurse over a period of 12 weeks (4 weeks between each session).

The web-based intervention: iFOCUS

Delivery mode and dose

This intervention will be provided to patient-caregiver dyads after they completed the baseline measurement (T0) and were randomly allocated to the web-

intervention. The web-based iFOCUS intervention is a self-managed psycho-educational intervention that is completed autonomously by the patient-caregiver dyads. It encompasses four sessions over a period of 12 weeks (3 weeks between each session).

## Study burden and risks

The DIAdIC protocol is non-invasive and does not involve known risks of protocol-related injury. It is a psycho-educational intervention focused on the provision of information; it is not intended to be a therapeutic or cognitive/behavioral intervention.

## **Contacts**

#### **Public**

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**Scientific** 

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## **Trial sites**

## **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

## Inclusion criteria

The study population will consist of patients with advanced solid organ cancer (except brain cancer) and their primary family caregiver.

Inclusion criteria

**Patient** 

Diagnosis of cancer: solid organ (lung, colorectal, breast, prostate and other)

No longer receives curative treatment (only life-prolonging or palliative

treatments)

Written informed consent

Lives within 100 km for intervention nurses to travel

Family caregiver

Written informed consent

Primary informal caregiver as determined by the patient

Lives within 100 km for intervention nurses to travel

Dyad

Patient and/or family caregivers has access to and is familiar with use of

internet

## **Exclusion criteria**

**Exclusion criteria** 

Brain cancer, brain metastases, non-solid cancers

Prognosis of less than 3 months

Has no informal caregivers

< 18 years old

Unable to participate in available languages

Family caregiver

Unable to physically or mentally participate

Cancer diagnosis in the last 12 months

<18 years old

Unable to participate in available languages

# Study design

## Design

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Open (masking not used)

**Primary purpose:** Health services research

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 06-01-2022

Enrollment: 156

Type: Actual

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 15-01-2021

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 25-03-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 27-09-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

(Rotterdam)

# **Study registrations**

## Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

# Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

# In other registers

Register ID

CCMO NL75241.078.20