



Cancer Control and Screening
Research Group
Wellington



“Doctor, you’re the expert”:
Factors influencing treatment decision-making in
cancer consultations with Māori patients/whānau
and specialists

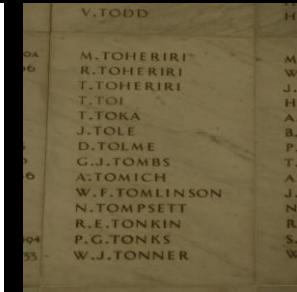
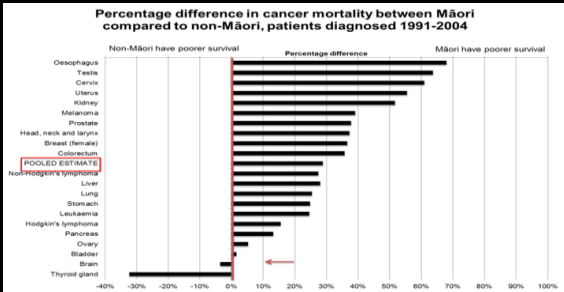
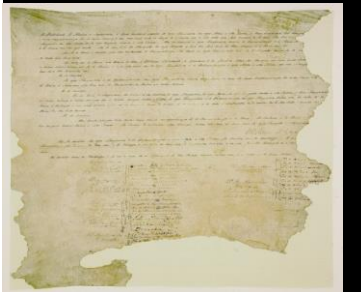


Jeannine Stairmand
Lis Ellison-Loschmann
Louise Signal

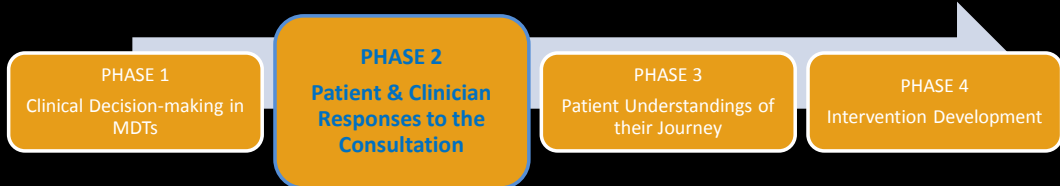
For further information email: jeannine.stairmand@otago.ac.nz



Background



C3: Cancer Care Journeys and Clinical Decision-making



- What impact do comorbidities have on treatment decision-making in cancer consultations with Māori patients/whānau?
- What other factors influence treatment decision-making in cancer consultations with Māori patients/whānau?

Methodology

- Māori Centred Research
- Case Study
- Methods: audio-recorded
 - *consultations*
 - *specialist debrief*
 - *semi-structured patient interview*
- Data transcribed and thematically analysed



Participants



RESULTS



Patient decision-making



- **Specialist:** rapport, expert, treatment recommendation
"Doctor, you're the expert" (Waiti, con)
- **Patient:** wairua (spiritual wellbeing) & hinengaro (mental wellbeing) , use of traditional, complementary and alternative medicines
- **Whānau:** present, participate, influence, motivation, consideration

"And I just need to let you know now ..., she wants to be involved, I want her to be involved, so we need to involve her so she can get time off work and come home" (Nuku, con)

Specialist decision-making



- Patient: motivation, fitness for treatment
- Disease and treatment: symptoms, progression, safety and efficacy
- Health care system: multidisciplinary teams (MDT), colleagues, treatment protocols

"...the standard protocol would be a more classic protocol [which] would be surgical resection, but because of the size of the tumour, neo-adjuvant therapy is recommended" (MS 3, Wai)

Comorbidities



Influenced **patient** and **specialist** decision-making

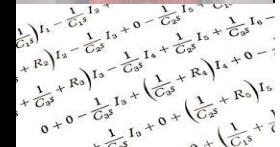
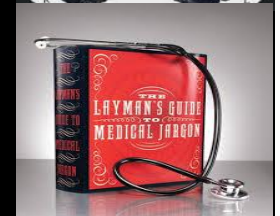
- Impacted on patient lives going into the consultation
- Diagnosis
- Treatment options & treatment protocols
- Side-effects
- Adds complexity to treatment decision-making
- Unique case

Communication

"He's a very nice man, and very open.

Straight up. Love it....very informative." (Waitī, IV)

- Rapport/style
- Information:
 - load and complexity
 - Medical jargon - lay language
 - Process and understanding



Decision-making

Complications

Pre-decision?

Type

- Patient led decision-making ✓
- Shared Decision-making X
- Medical decision-making ✓
- Informed decision-making?
- Delayed decision-making ✓



Conclusion

- Whānau are a key factor and should be acknowledged
- Quality interventions and resources are needed
- Comorbidities add additional complexity
- Further development of culturally appropriate care and support is needed
- Review the cancer care system and processes to enable informed decision-making and informed consent
- Māori centred research is a culturally appropriate research method able to be successfully used in the hospital setting

More work is needed to identify determinants of cancer inequities experienced by Māori – look upstream

Mihi whakamutunga

To the patients, whanau, specialists, nurses, workers and researchers who enabled this study to be undertaken



tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa