Reports of assistance with activities of daily living: Advanced cancer patient & spouse caregiver concordance

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Introduction	Method
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Little research exists on the agreement between cancer patients and proxies about patient functional status and caregiver assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs)Most existing work focuses on dementia patients or older adults, or on proxies other than family caregivers (e.g., medical providers)Aims:<ol style="list-style-type: none">Describe patient-caregiver concordance of reported ADLs and IADLs in the context of advanced cancerIdentify factors associated with lower patient-caregiver concordance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participants: 88 adult patients with stage III-IV GI or thoracic cancer (PTs) and their opposite-sex spouse caregivers (CGs)Procedure: Participants completed a cross-sectional questionnaire assessing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Caregiver assistance to patients in ADLs/IADLs: yes/no items about 8 ADLs and 7 IADLsRelationship satisfaction: 4-item Couples Satisfaction Index (CSI-4)Caregiver burden (caregivers only): 14-item Caregiver Burden Scale (CBS)

Results

Table 1. Demographics and descriptive statistics

	PTs		CGs	
	M	SD	M	SD
Age	66.8	9.2	64.7	9.2
Years married	34.1	15.6	34.1	15.9
Relationship satisfaction	20.5	3.1	19.8	4.0
Caregiver burden				
Objective burden	--	--	22.1	3.7
Stress burden	--	--	14.1	2.5
Demand burden	--	--	11.8	3.0
	n	%	n	%
Female	25	28.4	63	71.6
Non-Hispanic	85	96.6	81	92.0
Race				
White	82	93.2	79	89.8
Black	5	5.7	4	4.5
Other	1	1.1	3	3.4
Education				
≤ High school	16	18.2	16	17.6
Vocational school or some college	29	33.0	32	36.4
College (4 years)	16	18.2	13	14.8
> College	27	30.7	27	30.7
Employment				
Not employed	67	76.1	53	60.2
Employed part-time	5	5.7	11	12.5
Employed full-time	15	17.0	21	23.9
Household income				
\$10,000 - \$24,999	5	5.7	4	4.5
\$25,000 - \$39,999	13	14.8	14	15.9
\$40,000 - \$49,999	8	9.1	8	9.1
\$50,000 - \$74,999	27	30.7	24	27.3
≥ \$75,000	33	37.5	37	42.0

Table 2. Assistance to patient in each ADL/IADL

Activity	% Reporting PT Gets Assistance		PT-CG Disagreement		
	PT	CG	r	% Dyads that Disagreed	κ
ADLs					
Feeding	6	9	.44***	8	.42
Toileting	3	3	.66***	2	.66
Selecting proper attire	14	12	.39***	15	.39
Grooming	8	12	.52***	9	.51
Continence maintenance	2	3	.62***	3	.56
Dressing	9	13	.60***	8	.59
Bathing	8	5	.74***	3	.71
Walking/transferring	9	11	.63***	7	.63
None	76	69	.26*	30	.26
IADLs					
Managing finances	56	61	.56***	22	.56
Transportation	51	58	.55***	23	.54
Shopping	69	70	.11	37	.11
Meal preparation	76	77	.27*	26	.27
Using phone	18	25	.34**	23	.33
Medication management	39	45	.59***	20	.58
Housework	75	85	.06	31	.05
None	11	7	.33**	11	.32

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$

- PT and CG reports of ADL assistance were positively correlated, but not all IADL reports were correlated
- Dyads disagreed more about IADLs (24.2%, $SD = 20.7$) than ADLs (9.5%, $SD = 13.1$)
- CGs reported that PTs received assistance in more activities than PTs reported ($p = .042$)
- Older PT age was associated with greater ADL disagreement ($B = .008$, $p = .017$)
- Greater CG stress burden ($B = -.011$, $p = .022$) and greater PT relationship satisfaction ($B = -.009$, $p = .028$) were associated with lower disagreement about activities

Conclusions

- Consistent with work in other populations, results suggest that patient-caregiver reports of patient independence in ADLs/IADLs are mostly correlated, but caregivers report that patients receive significantly more assistance than patients report receiving
- Results provide additional insight about patient-proxy ratings of functional status in the context of advanced cancer
- Findings suggest that the relationship context may influence perceptions of patient independence, and high disagreement may reflect “invisible support” from spouse-caregivers