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**ATTITUDES TOWARDS GIVING INFORMATION TO CANCER PATIENTS. PRELIMINARY REPORT.** M Rihuete (1) G. Varela (2). Service of Oncology (1) and Department of Surgery (2). Primero de Octubre Hospital. School of Medicine, Complutense University, Madrid. Spain

A questionnaire evaluating attitudes toward the giving of information to adult cancer patients was constructed to facilitate comparison between the attitudes of physicians, medical students and patients' relatives (oncological and non-oncological) in our social environment.

For the purposes of this preliminary report, a total of 137 individuals completed the questionnaire. Respondents age and sex did not appear to be distinguishing variables on the attitudes expressed. When compared with other groups, relatives of non-cancer patients showed less confidence on patient's coping ability, ( $p = <0.003$ ) assuming that patients will become depressed or anxious as a consequence of receiving information on their disease. Both physicians and medical students thought that patients should themselves make treatment decisions, whilst relatives cited their role in decision-making on certain aspects of the management of adult oncological patients ( $p = <0.009$ ).

From these data we conclude that our future Psychological Support Program for Oncological Patients should include a protocol of "information-giving" for patients and their families. We further conclude that it points to a need to investigate - possibly through a behavioural interview - the psychological effect of information on cancer patients