Abstract: P340

Characteristics of a tool for timely identification of palliative needs in heart failure: the views of Dutch patients, their family and healthcare professionals

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Background: Palliative Care (PC) can improve outcomes for patients with advanced chronic heart failure (CHF) and their family, but timely recognition of PC needs remains challenging.

Aim: To identify characteristics of a tool to assess PC needs in CHF, needed for successful implementation, according to patients, their family and healthcare professionals in the Netherlands.

Methods: An explorative qualitative study, part of the project "Identification of patients with HeARt failure with PC needs (I-HARP)" was conducted. Focus groups and individual interviews were held with healthcare professionals, patients with CHF, and family members. Data were analyzed using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR).

Results: In total, 13 patients, 10 family members and 26 healthcare professionals participated. Content analysis revealed desired intervention characteristics for successful implementation in four constructs: relative advantage, adaptability, complexity and design quality and packaging. Healthcare professionals indicated that a tool should increase awareness, understanding and knowledge concerning palliative care needs. A tool needs to be adaptable to different stages of the disease, to facilitate early identification of PC needs and ease open conversations about palliative care. The complexity of CHF should to be taken into account in a personalized approach.

Conclusions: A tool for timely identification of palliative needs in heart failure needs to create awareness concerning palliative care needs in both patients as well as family members, should be easy to use in different disease stages and should facilitate conversations about PC needs. Complexity of the disease and personal preferences must be taken into account. Training in palliative care of caregivers seems needed for successful implementation.