Supplementary Online Content


eAppendix. Scripts

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
SCRIPT FOR LESS OPTIMISTIC MESSAGE VIDEO

Oncologist: “Hi Mrs. XX. It’s good to see you today. How are you doing?”

Patient: “I’m actually doing a little bit worse than the last time we met. The increase in pain medicine has helped me only a little bit. I still have some pain in my back which doesn’t go away. It specially bothers me at night.”

Oncologist: “I can see that you are not feeling well right now.”

Patient: “Yes doctor, besides the pain, I am feeling very fatigued, and I have not been able to sleep all night long for few days now. On top of that my appetite is not that great, and my family is a little bit concerned about that too.”

Oncologist: “I can see that the last treatment has given you some side effects too.”

Patient: “That is right. The fatigue has not gone away at all and I still have some nausea, despite all the medications I am taking.”

Oncologist: “I know that the last cycle of chemotherapy was very bothersome for you, so that is why we had to stop that treatment.”

Patient: “Yes doctor, I felt really bad after the last cycle. I know that we were hoping that the last series of treatments would help to treat my cancer, but given that I was too weak and experienced so many side effects I agreed to stop that. I know that I am not feeling that great, but I wanted to know whether is it possible to receive a new chemotherapy to treat my cancer. When I was initially diagnosed I promised myself that I would do every possible effort in order to win this battle. So if there is a possibility, I would definitely like to try it.”

Oncologist: “As you know, the last cycle of chemotherapy did not work as we expected. You are still experiencing a lot of side effects and the cancer has progressed. Therefore, it is not possible to offer you more chemotherapy treatments. At this point, there is no serious chance of curing your cancer. However, there is a lot that we can do, so that you can feel better and have a better quality of life. I really hope that we can support you and your family. My team and the supportive care team will work together in relieving your symptoms and trying to make this time as comfortable as possible.”

Patient: “sighing and crying (pause).”Are you sure doctor? Are there any other types of treatments or a new chemotherapy that you could offer me?”

Oncologist: “Unfortunately, there are no other possible treatments for your cancer. I know that this is difficult to hear. I wish it could be different.”

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SCRIPT FOR MORE OPTIMISTIC MESSAGE VIDEO

Oncologist: “Hi Mrs. XX. It’s good to see you today. How are you doing?”

Patient: “I’m actually doing a little bit worse than the last time we met. The increase in pain medicine has helped me only a little bit. I still have some pain in my back which doesn’t go away. It specially bothers me at night.”

Oncologist: “I can see that you are not feeling well right now.”

Patient: “Yes doctor, besides the pain, I am feeling very fatigued, and I have not been able to sleep all night long for few days now. Over that, my appetite is not that great, and my family is a little bit concerned about that too.”

Oncologist: “I can see that the last treatment has given you some side effects too.”

Patient: “That is right. The fatigue has not gone away at all and I still have some nausea, despite all the medications I am taking.”

Oncologist: “I know that the last cycle of chemotherapy was very bothersome for you, so that is why we had to interrupt that treatment.”

Patient: “Yes doctor, I felt really bad after the last cycle. I know that we were hoping that the last series of treatments would help to treat my cancer, but given that I was too weak and experienced so many side effects I agreed to stop that. I know that I am not feeling that great, but I wanted to know whether is it possible to receive a new chemotherapy to treat my cancer. When I was initially diagnosed I promised myself that I would do every possible effort in order to win this battle. So if there is a possibility, I would definitely like to try it.”

Oncologist: “As you know, the last cycle of chemotherapy did not work as we expected. You are still experiencing a lot of side effects and the cancer has progressed. At this point, it might not be a good option to give you new chemotherapy. Right now we can’t give you any more cancer treatment because of the side effects that you are having and your medical status. However, if you start feeling a little bit better, we can find something for you. I really hope that you can feel better so that we can try another drug. I would like to be very clear though, that the goal at this point is not to cure your cancer. Meanwhile, there is a lot that we can do, so that you can feel better and have a better quality of life.

Patient: sighing and crying (pause). So you are telling me that there are alternatives in the future? I could receive other treatments in the case I feel better?

Oncologist: “That is right. At this point you are very weak and not a candidate for treatment. However, if you get strong enough, we might consider giving you a new treatment. We will have to wait and see how you do. I know that this might not be the best possible scenario for you. I wish it could be different.”

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