



# Psychological aspects in cancer patients

Adak Pilger

Department of gynecology  
Charité Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCCC)  
Charité Campus Virchow hospital  
University of Berlin

# Why is this topic important?

Is there any evidence that psychological support is beneficial for the patient in extrem life threatening situations?

# Yes, there is!

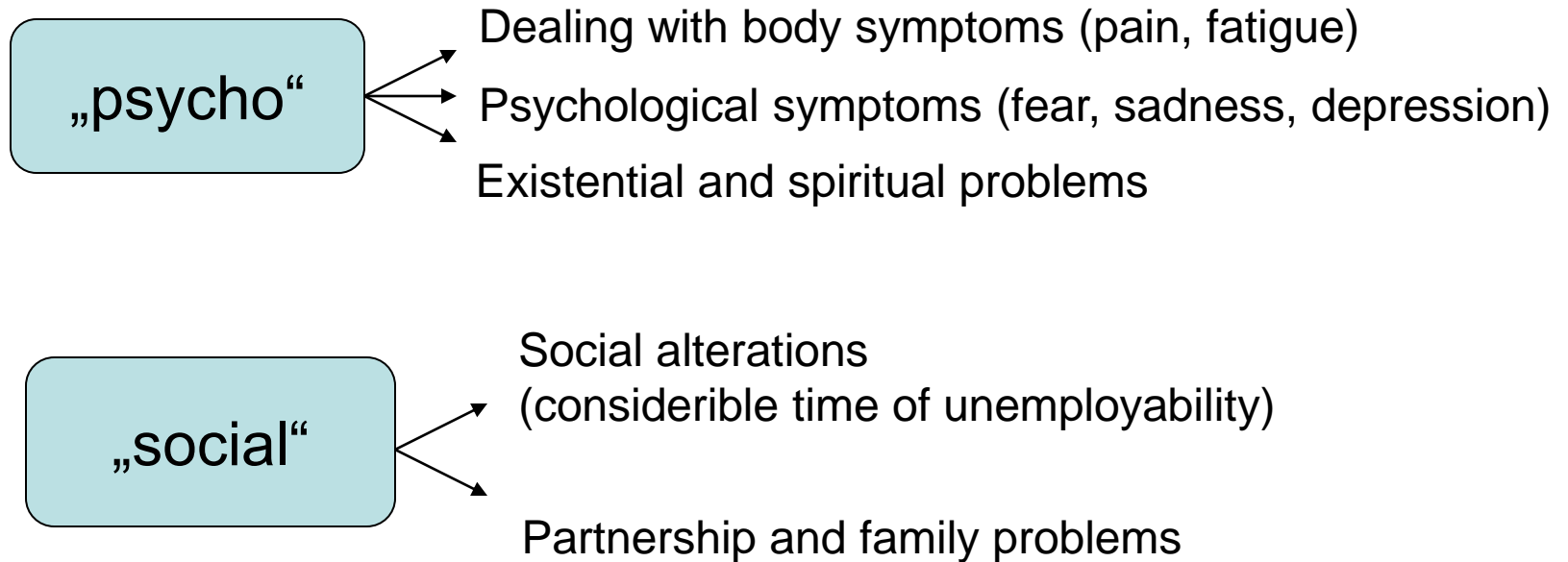
Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

WHO 1948

# Dimensions of Psychological aspects

- Psychosocial conditions
- Quality of Life
- Treatment decision making process
- Coping strategies for patients and relatives

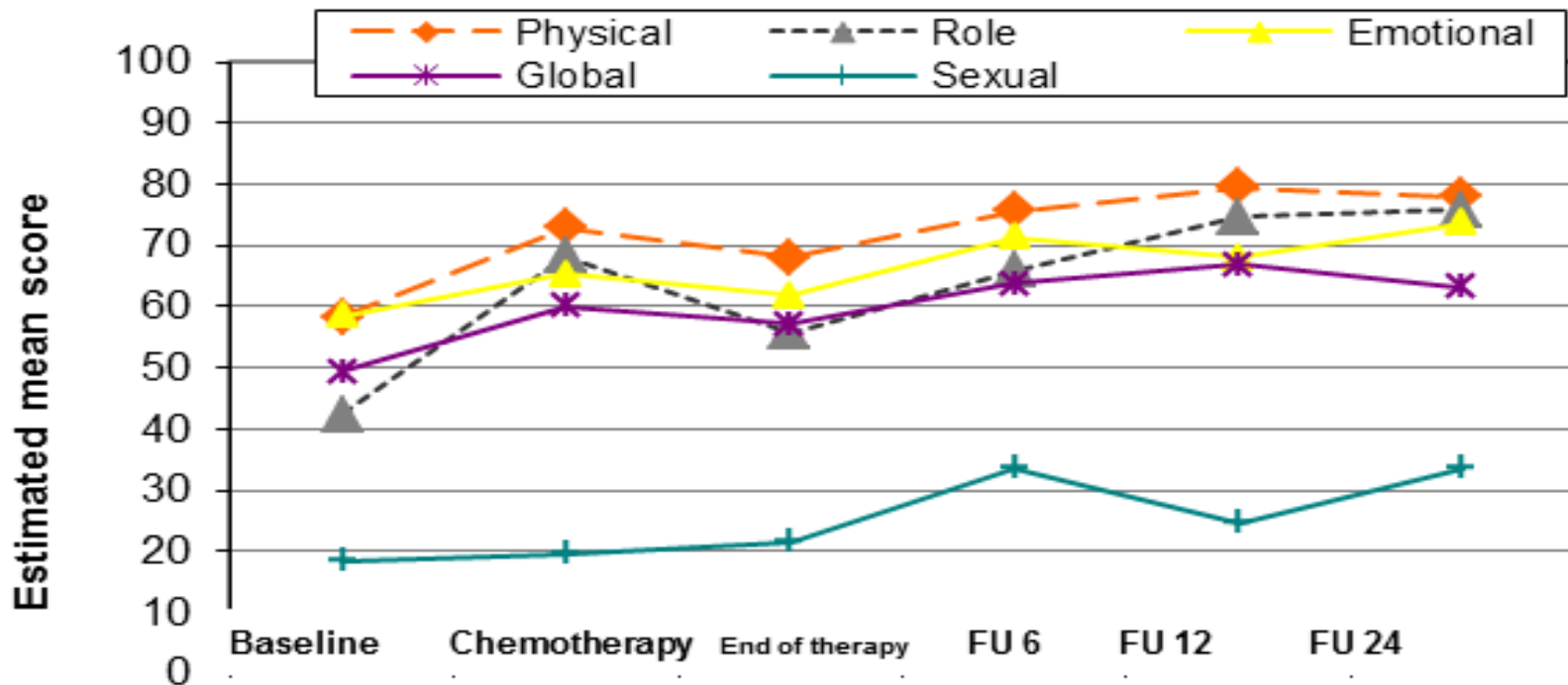
# Psychosocial problems of cancer Patients



# Dimensions of Psychological aspects

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# Quality of Life during sequential chemotherapy



# Quality of Life and Sexuality of Patients after Treatment for gynaecological Malignancies

- According to the FSFI-d 78% of the pat. suffer from sexual Dysfunction.

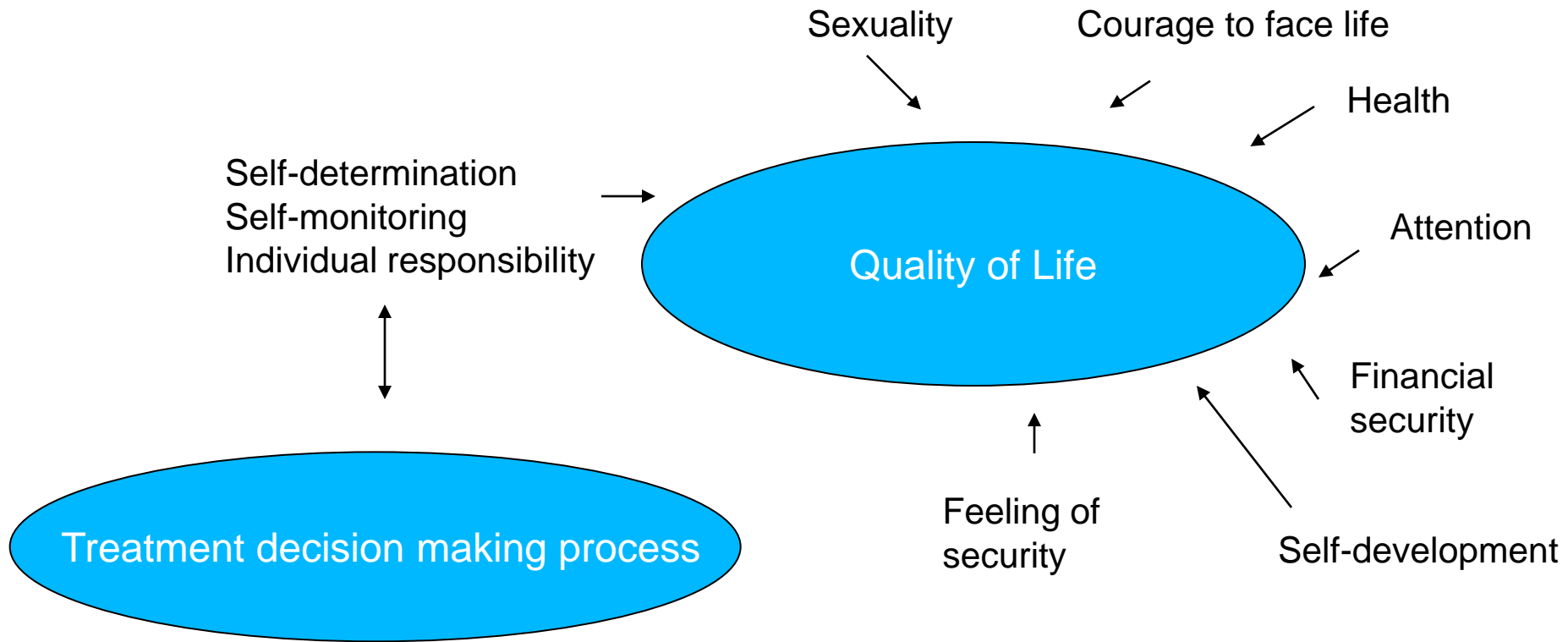
Required no information	40%
Asked the physician for informations	25%
Information brochure	15%
Asked the partner	5%
Asked Friends	5%
Searched in Internet for information	5%



# Dimensions of psychological aspects

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- **Treatment decision making process**
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# Treatment decision making process



- Literature research:
- Data basis: PubMed, Key words: ovarian Cancer, ovarian cancer treatment, treatment decision making process, publications within 1995-2011.

# Treatment decision making process

<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of Pat.</b>	<b>Kollektiv</b>	<b>Desing</b>
<i>Stewart et al.</i>	2000	Kanada	105	OC	Questionnaire
<i>Kitamura et al.</i>	2010	Japan	31	OC, EC	Questionnaire
<i>Elit et al.</i>	2003	Kanada	21	OC	Personal interview
<i>Jolicour et al.</i>	2009	Kanada	21	ROC	Personal interview
<i>Fitch et al.</i>	2003	Kanada	18	OC	Questionnaire by phone
<i>Elit et al.</i>	2010	Kanada	26	ROC	Personal interview
<i>Ziebland et al.</i>	2006	England	43	OC	Personal interview

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# Influencing factors on coping strategies

- Personality
- Experiences with illness
- Subjectiv conception
- Approach and prejudice about cancer
- Ressources (personal, network)

# How can the physician support the patient

- 1. Reduction of the thread:** education, explanation of the therapy process, improvement of the physician/patient relationship.
- 2. Support in stress debriefing:** relaxing technique, psychological support.
- 3. Stabilisation of a positive self-respect:** underlining the competences the patients have in spite of the cancer diagnose.

# Summary

- Psychological stress is a frequent and relevant problem in cancer patients.
- Psychosocial stress reduces the quality of life and effects the history of the disease and the satisfaction about any medical treatment.
- Psychosocial distress should be treated professional.
- Psychological support is a crucial part of a multimodal management of cancer patients.

