

**Advance care planning and medical decision-making in the era of COVID-19: use of video tools for guiding dementia caregivers**

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STATE OF THE ART: Dementia caregivers (CGs) are often in the position to make medical decisions for people with dementia (PWD) and rely mostly on conversations with clinicians for guidance. Few educational tools focused on advance care planning (ACP) to facilitate informed surrogate medical decision-making are available for CGs. The COVID-19 pandemic provided a unique opportunity to examine methods for helping CGs with ACP in the context of a compelling public health threat.

METHODS: 46 CGs of PWD (including FTLD and AD) viewed educational videos about COVID-19, ACP, and medical decision-making. CGs were interviewed and completed questionnaires immediately, one week, and one month after viewing the videos. Variables examined included whether CGs found the videos useful, learned about medical decision making, or initiated actions towards formal ACP.

RESULTS: Of 12 interviews coded thus far, >50% rated videos as “Useful”. Nearly all (11/12) CGs were spurred to discuss ACP with others and 5 took concrete steps towards ACP within a month of viewing the videos. Of all 46 CGs, 80% reported learning something about medical decision making regardless of their baseline knowledge or dementia severity of the person they care for.

CONCLUSIONS: In the context of the pandemic, this video educational intervention spurred dementia CGs to discuss and pursue actions towards ACP for PWDs. Videos are potentially an effective method for educating CGs about ACP, medical conditions, and medical decision-making. Analyses of remaining transcriptions are ongoing and will examine effects of knowledge increase on formal ACP documentation.

**Conflicts of interest**

N/A