

Supplementary file

1. Potentially eligible patients were identified by clinic staff from clinician workstation.

2. We introduce our study to patient' family members:

Our study was a face-to-face interviews ,patients were asked some questions about **Advance Directives(a written statement of a person's wishes regarding medical treatment, often including a living will, made to ensure those wishes are carried out should the person be unable to communicate them to a doctor)** and **End-of-Life care(End-of-life care is the support and medical care which can only reduce symptoms given during the time surrounding death).**

Then we asked family members two question: *'Does the patient know the real condition of their illness?'*(2) *'Do you allow the patient to participate in this interview?'*

If we had the permission of family members and patients know thier real illness condition,we then conducted our interview on brain tumor patients.

3. English version of the questionnaire

Questions about AD

(1) Do you heard of advance directives(a written statement of a person's wishes regarding medical treatment, often including a living will, made to ensure those wishes are carried out and let the person be unable to communicate them to a doctor)?

Yes/No

(2)In the future,if advance directives are legal in China and you were in a condition which you cannot make your own medical decisions (e.g. coma or cannot speak), would you like to make an advance directive?

I would/I would not

(3)If you preferred to make an advance directive,the reasons were:

- a) Make sure the end of life is comfortable and avoid painful feeling;
- b) Avoid burdening family economic condition;
- c) Hope own wishes could be respected;
- d) Avoid imposing burdens on society;
- e) Consider the quality of life is more important than the length of life;
- f) Religious beliefs;
- g)Witness the rescue of other people.

(4)If you didn't prefer to make an advance directive,the reasons were:

- a) Family members will decide for me;
- b) Let it be;
- c) No need to think about it now and doctor will decide for me;
- d) My decision may change ;
- e) Not familiar with the concept of advance directives;
- f) Religious beliefs.”

Questions about End-of-Life care

Firstly, patients were introduced **the concept of End-of-Life care** (End-of-Life care cannot cure your illness, it is a care given to people who are near the end of life and have stopped treatment to cure or control their disease. End-of-life care includes physical, emotional, social, and spiritual support for patients and their families. The goal of end-of-life care is to control pain and other symptoms so the patient can be as comfortable as possible. End-of-life care may include palliative care, supportive care, and hospice care.

(1) Would you like the medical staff to discuss your illness and end-of-life arrangements directly with you?

I would/I would not

(2) If you were terminally ill (a few weeks before death), would you prefer receiving appropriate palliative care which cannot delay death but gives comfort?

I would/I would not

(3) If you were terminally ill (a few weeks before death) and in a critical moment (eg, cardiac arrest), would you prefer receiving resuscitation (cardiopulmonary resuscitation, electrical defibrillation, endotracheal intubation, tracheotomy)?

I would/I would not/Not sure

(4) If you were terminally ill (a few weeks before death) and in a persistent vegetative state (such as brain tumor progression), would you prefer life support (including nutritional support such as tube feeding or percutaneous endoscopic gastrojejunostomy, broad-spectrum antibiotics, blood transfusions, ventilator assisted ventilation) ?

I would/I would not/Not sure