

**Cancer-related cognitive impairment: A mixed-methods evaluation of a standard  
factsheet**

*Supportive Care in Cancer*

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## Supplementary File A. Semi-structured interview guide.

### The Fact Sheet

1. Did you have time to read the factsheet?  
If yes: proceed to question 2.  
1a. If no: A number of questions in this interview relate directly to the factsheet would it be ok for us to reschedule our discussion for a time when you will have been able to read the factsheet please?
2. Was this the first time you had seen the factsheet?
  - a. If not: who, when, where
3. What were your overall impressions of the factsheet?
4. In your own words, can you please summarise the main points of the factsheet?
5. What are some things you liked about the factsheet?
6. What are some things you disliked about the factsheet, and how can we improve on it?
  - a. Is there anything you would change about this factsheet?
  - b. Is there anything you think is missing from the factsheet?

*Probe questions: How \_\_\_\_\_ do you think the factsheet is?*

  - c. *Relevant/Relatable*
  - d. *Easy to read/Clear*
  - e. *Easy to understand*
  - f. *Informative*
  - g. *Helpful/Useful*

### Knowledge Before/After the Fact Sheet

7. Had you heard of the terms 'cancer fog' or 'chemo-brain' before reading the factsheet?
  - a. How did you hear about these terms? (*e.g. who, when, where*)
8. When you first heard about this phrase, what was your understanding of what those phrases meant?
  - a. What is your understanding now, after reading the fact sheet? (Has that understanding changed or has it stayed the same?)
9. Before you read the factsheet, what did you think caused these changes in your thinking, memory, and ability to concentrate?
  - a. What do you think after reading this factsheet?

### Discussing the Fact Sheet

10. Would you consider discussing this factsheet with anyone? Why/Why not?  
*E.g. doctor, family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, others diagnosed with cancer, other health professionals*
  - a. Is there any particular aspect you would talk to them about?

- b. How do you think they would have responded if you showed them this factsheet when you were diagnosed or undergoing treatment?

### **Symptoms of Cognitive Decline**

11. The fact sheet talked about the effects that cancer could have on someone's cognition. What are some of the symptoms of cognitive changes you recall from the fact sheet?
12. Did you experience any of the changes that the fact sheet described?
  - a. Which of these changes described in the fact sheet most applied to you?
  - b. When did you notice these changes?  
*(e.g. after diagnosis/during treatment/after treatment)*
13. How did you feel about these changes?
14. Are you still experiencing these changes?
15. How do you feel about them now?
16. Did anyone else notice these changes in you?
17. Thinking back to when you were diagnosed, did your cancer team talk to you about possible cognitive changes?
  - a. Who raised the topic of these possible changes: you, or did they raise it with you?  
*(e.g. doctor brought it up, patient noticed cognitive changes, patient read/heard about cancer-related cognitive impairment, someone else encouraged them to talk to the doctor)*
  - b. When was this raised? *(e.g. before/after symptoms)*
  - c. If not: Is there any reason you didn't discuss this with your doctor?  
*e.g. they spoke to others about it, they thought it wasn't important, they didn't know it was because of the cancer, they were embarrassed/uncomfortable, etc.*
18. Did you speak to anyone else about these changes?  
*E.g. family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, others diagnosed with cancer, other health professionals (e.g. GP, psychologist, counsellor, etc.)*
19. Before I move on, is there anything else you want to share about what we've discussed so far?

### **Strategies**

20. What are some of the strategies you recall from the fact sheet, to help you manage/deal with these cognitive changes?
21. Have you used any of these strategies before reading the fact sheet?
22. Have you used any strategies that are not listed on the fact sheet?
23. Can you see yourself using any of the strategies listed in the fact sheet? Why/Why not?
  - a. *Probe: How practical do you think the fact sheet is (in terms of strategies)?*

## Timing of information

24. Thinking back to when you received the diagnosis for cancer, would the fact sheet have been a useful resource for you?
  - a. If yes: What would you have done with that information? (*e.g. just read it, talk to family or doctor, etc.*)
  - b. If not: Is there any reason you don't think it would have been a useful resource for you?
  - c. Would you have preferred to receive the fact sheet when you were diagnosed, or later in your treatment and recovery? Why?
  - d. *Probe for consumer satisfaction:* How do you think you would have felt if you received this fact sheet back then?
25. How do you think it could have impacted your treatment decision-making?
  - a. If you can think back to when you had to make a decision on treatment, what would it have been like to receive this fact sheet? Why?
  - b. If you had a friend who had to make a decision on treatment, would you give this information to them? Why?
26. That's all the questions that I had, is there anything else that you would like to ask or comment on about the fact sheet?