Factors associated with fulfilling preferences for dying at home among cancer patients: the role of general practitioners (GPs)

By Winne Ko
(Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium)
EAPC 2013 Prague
Introduction & Methods

• a cross-country retrospective study through representative GPs network; weekly reports by GPs in Belgium (BE), the Netherlands (NL), Italy (IT) and Spain (ES)

• cancer patients often preferred dying at home; a gap of preference met (68% [IT] to 92% [ES] from our previous study)

• aim: to study factors associated with meeting home death preference of cancer patients

• Bi-variate and multivariate analyses for 695 patients who preferred home deaths: 12 variables tested against “preference met” (preferred and actual place of death were both home)
Results & Discussions

- 871/2048 (42.5%) patients’ preferred place of death were known
- 695 patients preferred home deaths

![Bar chart showing preference known and home death wish met by country.](chart.png)
Results & Discussions (con’t)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPs’ provision of palliative care until death and meeting home death preference (N=695)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium(N=206)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands(N=188)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy(N=235)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain(N=66)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Results remain statistically significant at p<.05 in the multivariate analyses (age, gender, specialist home care, decision-making ability and burden of informal caregiver as confounding) [with Spain in a modified model]*

- **GPs’ provision of pall care until death**: the only variable consistently positively associated with home death preference met in all four countries
In a nutshell:

- role of GPs in EoL care - low % of preference known

- association GPs provision of pall care until death and home death preference: possible interpretations
  - long established physician-patient relationship
  - combination of GPs’ work and other factors i.e. family support
  - division of labour b/t GPs and specialists

- further investments into GPs training needed

TED talk by Judy MacDonald Johnston (www.goodendoflife.com)
Thanks for your attention!

E-mail: winne.ko@vub.ac.be

Guido Miccinesi, Monica Beccaro, Katrien Vanthomme, Gé Donker, Bregje Onwuteaka-Philipsen, Tomás V. Alonso, Luc Deliens, Lieve Van den Block