

Diagnosis disclosure patterns among patients with plasma cell disorders

Authors: Maria Malik, Akshay Dalvi, Andriy Derkach, Ana M. Sahagun Sanchez Aldana, Jorge Arturo Hurtado Martínez, Gia Merlo, Jennifer M. Ahlstrom, Jay R. Hydren, Saad Zafar Usmani, Susan Chimonas, Robin Ortiz, Urvi A. Shah.
Organizations: Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Hanover, NH; University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL; Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY; HealthTree Foundation, Lehi, UT; NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY; Myeloma Service, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY.

BACKGROUND

Disclosing or withholding information relating to a **precancer or cancer diagnosis – including plasma cell disorders (PCDs)** like monoclonal gammopathy, smoldering myeloma, and multiple myeloma – across social networks may impact how patients cope with their diagnosis and prognosis. The purpose of this survey was to **investigate diagnosis disclosure patterns among patients with PCDs and identify areas for interventions** that effectively utilize social support to navigate cancer diagnoses.

METHODOLOGY

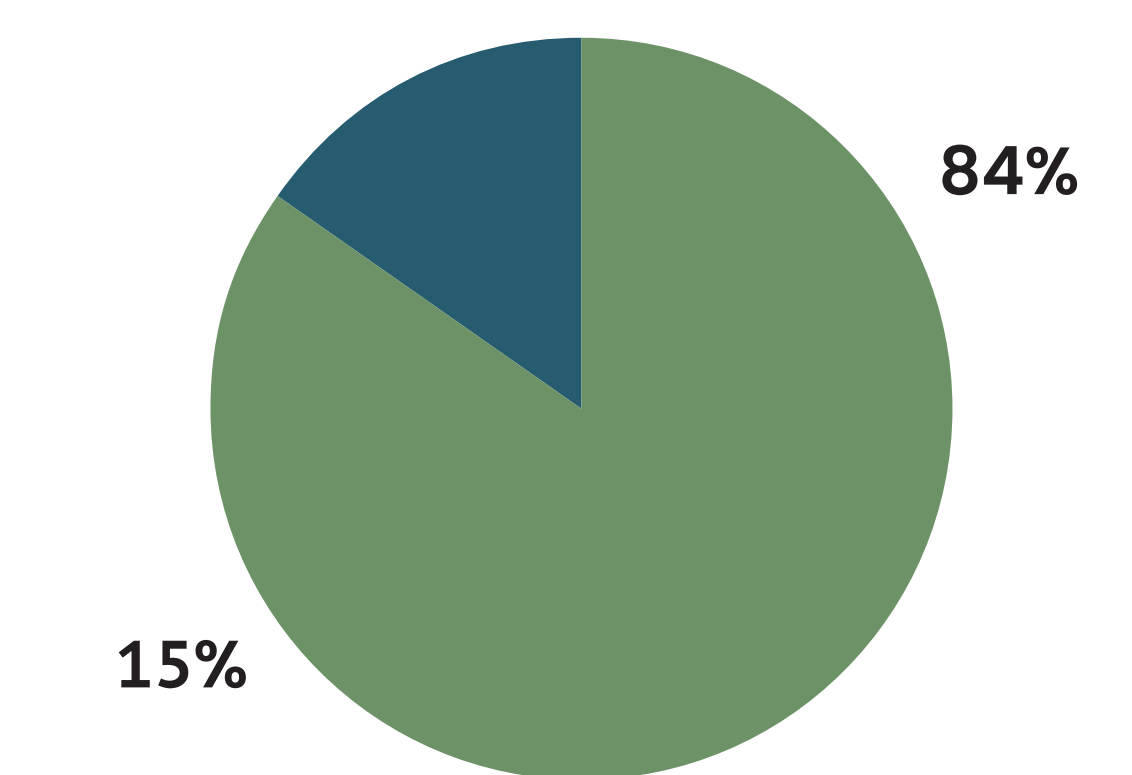


We invited participants with PCDs to answer a **34 question online survey** about their diagnosis disclosure patterns and perceptions on HealthTree Cure Hub between **April and December 2024**. De-identified aggregated responses were analyzed.

RESULTS

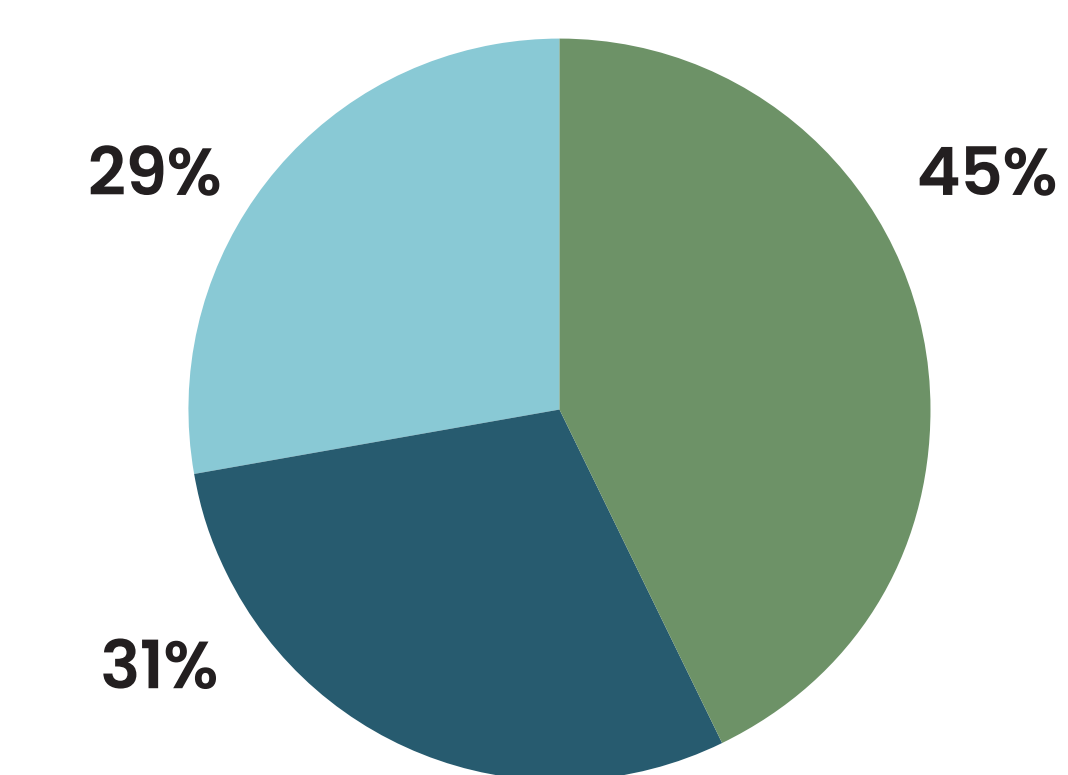
Total Participants: **510 Patients**

*Almost all (98%) reported sharing their diagnosis.

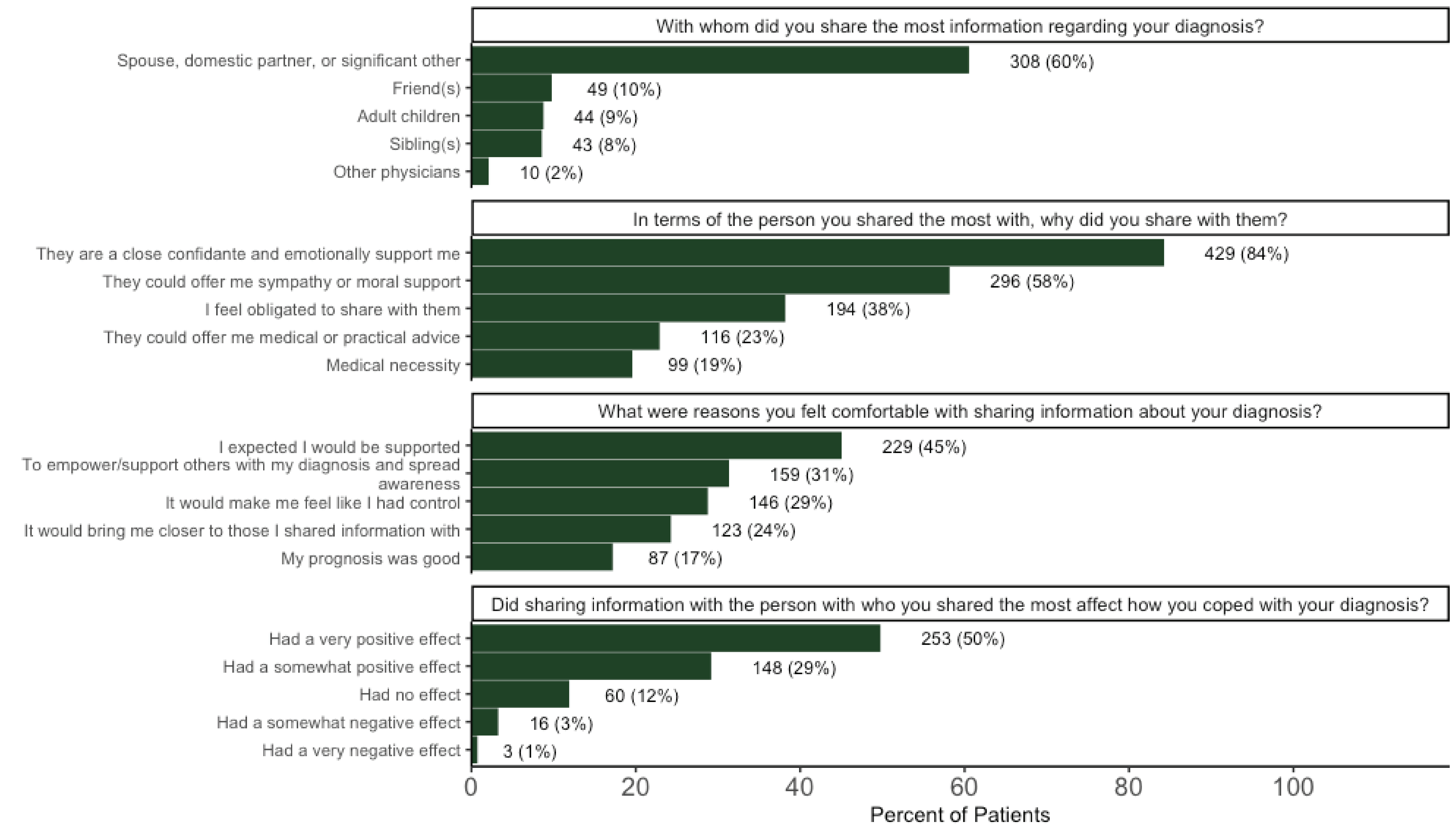


■ Patients with cancer (84%)
 ■ Patients with precancer (15%)

Reasons Participants Chose to Share



■ Expecting support (45%)
 ■ Empowering others/Spreading awareness (31%)
 ■ Feeling in control (29%)



79% participants reported that sharing information (with the individual they shared the most with) had a positive impact in their coping, with only 4% reporting a negative effect.

*Study limitations include selection bias.

CONCLUSION

Patients with PCDs have a variety of motivations for sharing their diagnosis and generally perceive disclosure among their primary social networks to be beneficial to their coping. Oncologists may promote coping by encouraging disclosure.

