

The effect of care team-patient relationship on decision-making in relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma

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BACKGROUND

Understanding patient involvement in shared decision making is critical for informed decision-making for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM) patients. This study explored **the relationships between care teams and patients**, who patients talk to and quantify the level of involvement, satisfaction, and comfort in the process of reaching a final change in treatment decision.

METHODOLOGY

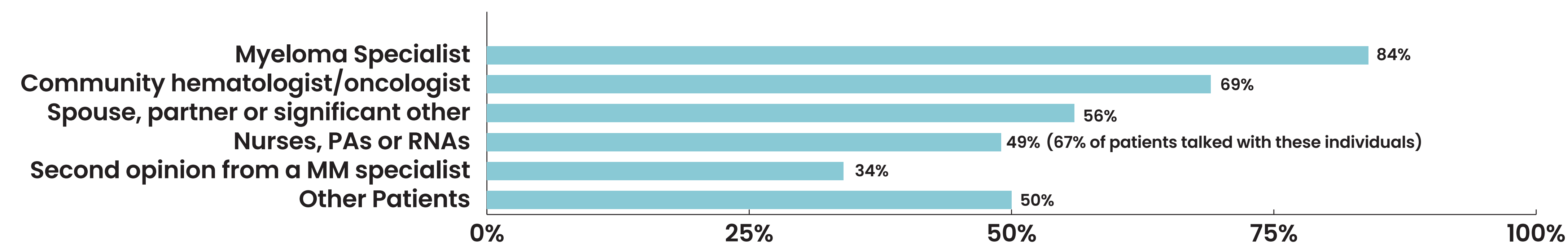
HealthTree Cure Hub (PMID: 35271305) was used to conduct a survey for RRMM patients for their **first change of therapy decision**. Five-point scales were used (1-Not at All Influential to 5-Extremely Influential; 1-Very Satisfied to 5-Very Dissatisfied), along with dichotomous and categorical choices.

RESULTS

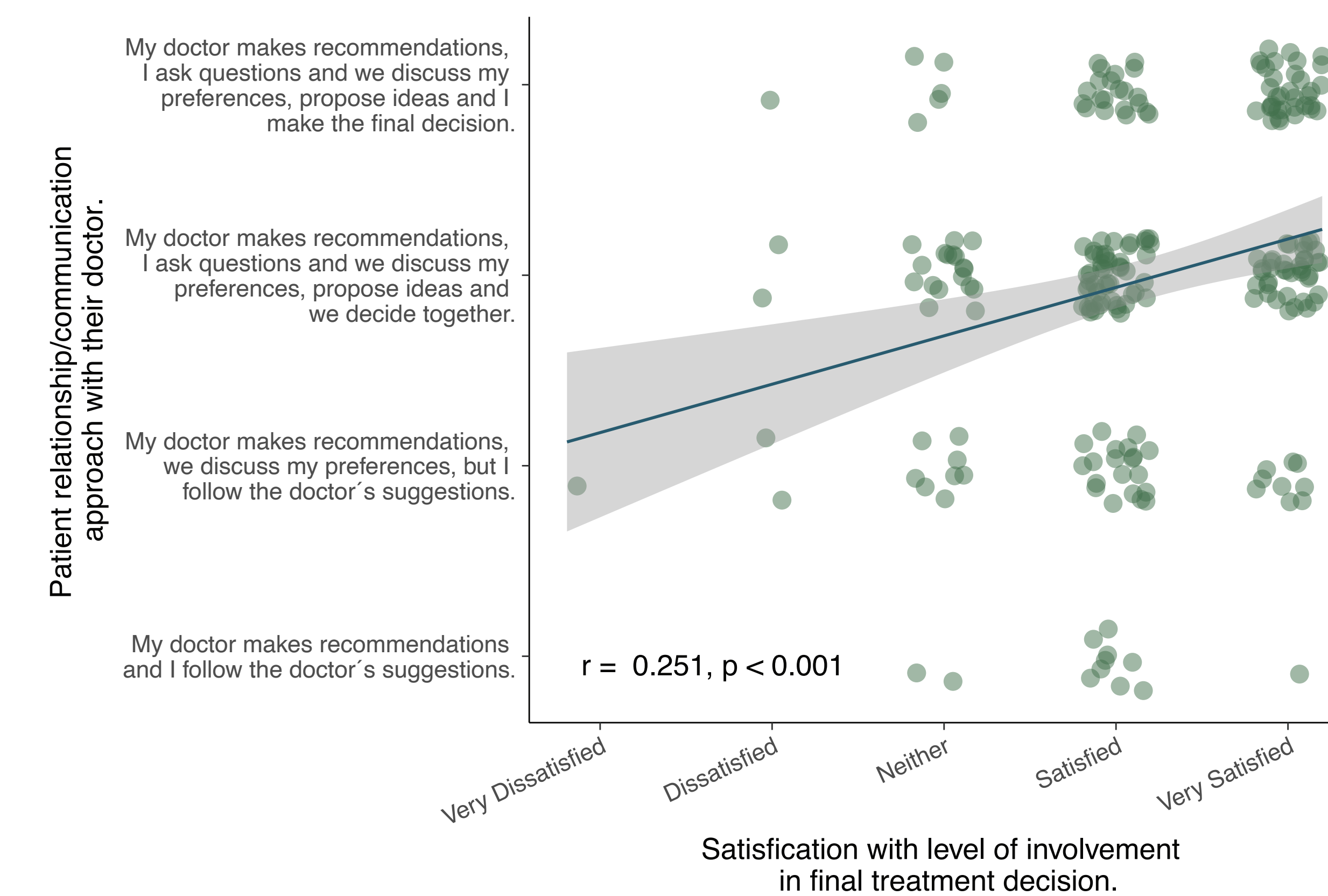
Total Participants: **294 Patients with RRMM**
 Age: **66 years (SD ± 9)**
 Gender Distribution: **53% were Female**
 Ethnicity Distribution: Of 219 demographics respondents, **91% were white**
 Education level: **49% had graduate level education.**

Most influential individuals for RRMM Patients

Top influential individuals ranked as somewhat to extremely influential were:

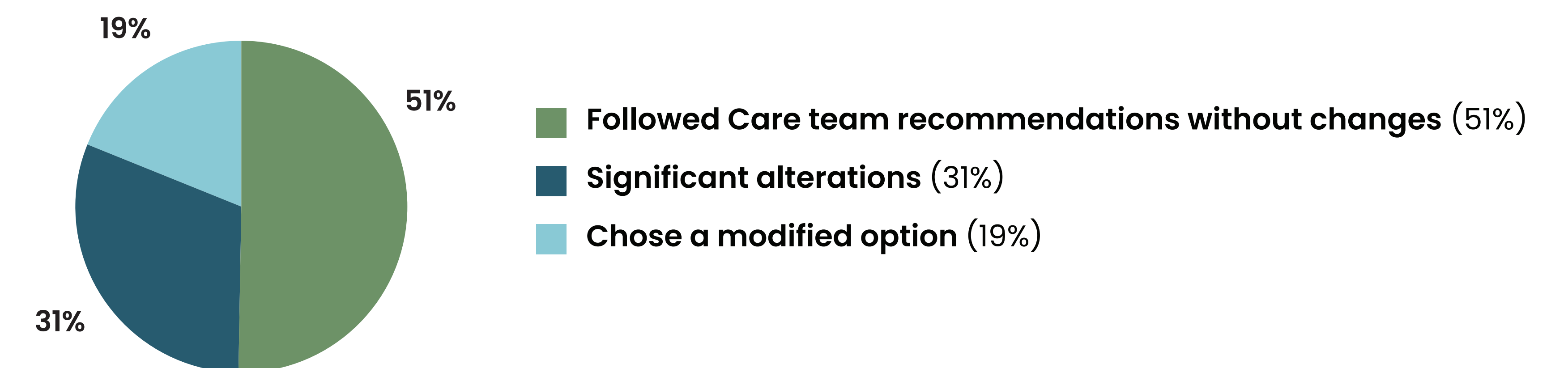


Relationship/communication approach of patients with their doctor



Patients relation with care team recommendations

*Most patients reported making the final decision (59%), followed by their doctor (40%), and the minority reported a caregiver or partner (1%).



CONCLUSION

About half of patients engage in a collaborative and active decision-making process, which was related to their involvement-satisfaction of the treatment decision. Patients actively engaged with various individuals, including myeloma specialists, community hematologists/oncologists, and spouse/partners. Notably, discussions with nurses, PAs, and RNAs played a significant role, along with interactions with peers. Taken together a multifaceted engagement highlights the active role of patients in determining their treatment paths within a complex healthcare network.

