Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) integrated in the follow-up of patients with haematological cancers: A qualitative study of patients and health care professionals experiences

Background
Patients with haematological chronic cancer live longer due to better treatment and care. Therefore, they will have more years of visits at the outpatient haematologic clinics requiring treatment, supportive care and rehabilitation. Previous studies have shown that including Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) in clinical practice has the potential to contribute to and support shared decision-making processes between patients and healthcare professionals. However, research exploring haematologic patient’s experiences and preferences due to this type of patient involvement is missing. Do PROs in practice expose patients view leading to changed outcomes stated by patients? How does this resource-intensive practice comply with clinical practice for health professionals? The present qualitative study explores this knowledge gap.

Aim and description of the study
This qualitative study is part of a multi-method study, and this specific study aims at exploring whether healthcare professionals and haematological cancer patients experience PROs as supportive, meaningful and useful when they are interacting during visits at the outpatient clinic. This study investigates whether an innovative approach to implementation of PROs in a physician/nurse-patient relationship in outpatient haematologic clinic contribute to better practice experienced by patients. Finally, the study will add knowledge on implementation of PROs in practice experienced by health professionals to future PRO-based practice.

Results
The first experiences seems to indicate, that use of PRO in practice is depending on personal adaption from both patients and healthcare professionals. Furthermore field data already indicate important and new knowledge according to the research questions.

Authors: Stine Thestrup Hansen, RN, MScN, PhD. Student, Nana Brochmann, MD, PhD. Student, John Brodersen, Professor, MD, GP, PhD., Bibi Halge-Hazelton, Professor, RN, MScN , PhD. Mette Kjerholt, RN, MScN , MLP, DpL, PhD.