THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF ADVANCED BREAST CANCER

The emotions surrounding an incurable disease like advanced breast cancer are profound and affect more than just the people living with the disease.

The Make Your Dialogue Count survey of patients, caregivers and oncologists in the United States was conducted in 2014. This survey data provides relevant information for all those involved in managing this disease.

ONCOLOGISTS

42% say that treating advanced breast cancer patients has a significant negative emotional impact on them.

81% agree it’s unprofessional to let emotions impact treatment recommendations.

However, 23% say emotions have kept them from sharing full information with patients.

4 in 5 know it’s very important to show compassion both at initial diagnosis and when treatment changes.

CAREGIVERS

86% say their role is a choice, not an obligation.

94% say that they try to maintain a positive outlook.

Still, 3 in 4 agree their caring role has been an emotional burden.

PATIENTS

More than half feel like a burden on their family.

46% of patients feel like less of a woman and 44% say cancer has stolen their dignity.

For more on the emotional impact of advanced breast cancer and how to make the most out of each doctor appointment, visit www.advancedbreastcancercommunity.org to view results of the Make Your Dialogue Count survey and to find additional resources.

References:
1. Novartis Data on File.
2. Count Us, Know Us, Join Us Make Your Dialogue Count, Harris Poll, sponsored by Novartis Oncology (2014).