

Multimedia appendix 1: Screenshots of a comic with questions

Hereditary colorectal cancer. Improving knowledge and communication skills.

What would you ask for?

You will now see a conversation between a doctor and his patient and her partner in which they talk about cancer in the family. Afterwards a couple of questions will be asked about this conversation.

Ms Aarts is 65 years old and visits the clinic with her husband to discuss treatment possibilities after being diagnosed with rectum carcinoma. She smoked for years, but quit smoking long ago. She doesn't drink alcohol. She is known with arthritis. The conversation between the doctor and patient has been going on for a while, when the doctor starts investigating the cancer family history.

Start the conversation 



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Hereditary colorectal cancer. Improving knowledge and communication skills.



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Do you have enough information?

Do you have enough information to determine if the patient should be referred for genetic counseling?

- Yes, I have enough information. The patient should not be referred.
- No, I don't have enough information
- Yes, I have enough information. The patient should be referred.

Check answer



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Do you have enough information?

Do you have enough information to determine if the patient should be referred for genetic counseling?

- Yes, I have enough information. The patient should not be referred.
- No, I don't have enough information
- Yes, I have enough information. The patient should be referred.

Sorry

Sorry, you do not have enough information yet to determine if a referral is necessary. Based on this information you cannot support sufficiently why this patient should be referred or not.

Continue



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Get a clear picture

Which question or questions could you ask now to get a clearer picture about the cancer in the family of this patient?

- 1. Did your mother have metastases of the uterine cancer?
- 2. Did your mother have cervical cancer, as often is discovered with a smear through the national screening program, or uterine cancer?
- 3. How old was your mother when she died?
- 4. At which age did your mother get cancer?

Check answer



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Wrong. The right answers are 2 and 4. Option 3 is not completely wrong, but option 4 is better. Option 1 is wrong.

There are several possibilities. First of all, it is important to get more clarity about the likelihood that it is indeed endometrial cancer. Many patients confuse endometrial cancer with a cervix carcinoma (which is often discovered with a smear, through screening) or with ovarium cancer. Endometrial cancer is a Lynch-associated tumor while a cervix carcinoma is not.

When the mother of the patient indeed had endometrial cancer it is important to know at which age she got it. This will determine if a referral is necessary. The age at which the mother died will give you an impression as well, but there could have been years between diagnosis and death.

Metastases are irrelevant for referral for genetic counseling.

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