

Table 1: Typologies of How Cancer Survivors’ Restructure Social Relationships with Family and Friends Following a Cancer Diagnosis: Perspectives of Interview Participants

Continuation of Positive Existing Relationships	Improvement of Existing Relationships	Strain on Existing Relationships	Termination of Negative Relationships	Formation of New Relationships	Failure to Form or Maintain Relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer reaffirms importance and strength of relationship • Consistent and increased emotional, practical and informational support provided • ‘Close knit’ relationships maintained • Draw strength from relationships, enabling an ability to look to the future • Treated the ‘same as before cancer’ • Ability to maintain social life and engage in self-management activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassessment of priorities and values • Increased emotional, practical and informational support provided • Provision of support that was absent prior to cancer • Enforced changes to social life impact on relationships • Increased ability to talk more openly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergence of carer/caregiver roles and guilt at being a burden • Enforced changes to social life impact on relationships • Distancing of friends and family due to lack of emotional support and failure to acknowledge cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of decreased validity and meaningfulness of relationship • Distancing of friends and family due to lack of emotional support and failure to acknowledge cancer • Reassessment of priorities and values • Flaws and weaknesses of relationship clarified • Clarification of what is wanted from relationship • Resilience and determination to ‘get on with life’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking of peer support (one to one or through support groups) • Desire to share experiences with others with cancer • Lack of comparisons made to pre-cancer self • Reassessment of priorities and values post-cancer • Recognition of need for emotional support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminished confidence in mind and body • Sense of increased vulnerability, decreased self-esteem and lack of hope • Increased social isolation and decreased self-management uptake due to physical limitations • Absence of practical, emotional or informational support • Wary of entering relationships as cancer seen as a deterrent and burden to others

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Participants and their Associated Typologies

Typologies^a		Continuation of Positive Existing Relationships (n=25)	Improvement of Existing Relationships (n=11)	Strain on Existing Relationships (n=16)	Termination of Negative Relationships (n=4)	Formation of New Relationships (n=3)	Failure to Form or Maintain Relationships (n=3)
Average Age (years)		61.4	55.2	60.6	57.5	51.7	55.7
Ethnicity (n (%))	White	18 (72)	8 (73)	13 (81)	3 (75)	3 (100)	2 (67)
	Black	20 (80)	1 (9)	2 (13)	1 (25)	0 (0)	1 (33)
	South Asian	2 (8)	2 (18)	1 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Gender (%)	Women	13 (52)	10 (91)	9 (56)	1 (25)	1 (33)	1 (33)
	Men	12 (48)	1 (9)	7 (44)	3 (75)	2 (67)	2 (67)
Religious (%)	Yes	17 (68)	9 (82)	12 (75)	3 (75)	3 (100)	2 (67)
	No	8 (32)	2 (18)	4 (25)	1 (25)	0 (0)	1 (33)

^aNumbers add up to more than 40 as some participants expressed elements of more than one typology