

Having dementia and cancer created accumulated complexity with...

...making
decisions
about care



Having dementia alongside cancer meant making decisions about treatment and care was more complex

- Consider additional time or longer appointments
- Families may experience additional distress and burden around decision making
- Consider the 'bigger picture' of how dementia may impact cancer treatment options, side-effects, and longer-term impacts

"The issues were around making sure that she [lady with dementia] had some understanding of the treatment and that things weren't just done to her, but that she truly was engaged with it.

That was quite difficult around surgery because of that retention of information really."

Clinical Nurse Specialist

"They were a bit scared of putting me [under anaesthetic] and then not knowing what my reaction was going to be when they're waking me up.

Am I going to be confused? Am I going to get in to a state because I don't know where I am, what's happened."

Man with cancer and dementia

These are findings from the CanDem study. This study was funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) RfPB programme (project reference PB-PG-0816-20015). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.]

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/research/centre-for-dementia-research/candem-study/>



FUNDED BY

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research