



Exploring how Disease Context Uniquely Influences Attitudes, Approaches and Processes of Advance Care Planning Engagement for Patients and Healthcare Providers

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Background:

Little is known about how *disease context* may uniquely influence attitudes, approaches and processes of ACP engagement for patients and clinicians.

Objective:

Using cross-contextual data we explored disease context influences on ACP practice in order to generate strategies to enhance the uptake and quality of ACP with respect to contextual factors.

Method:

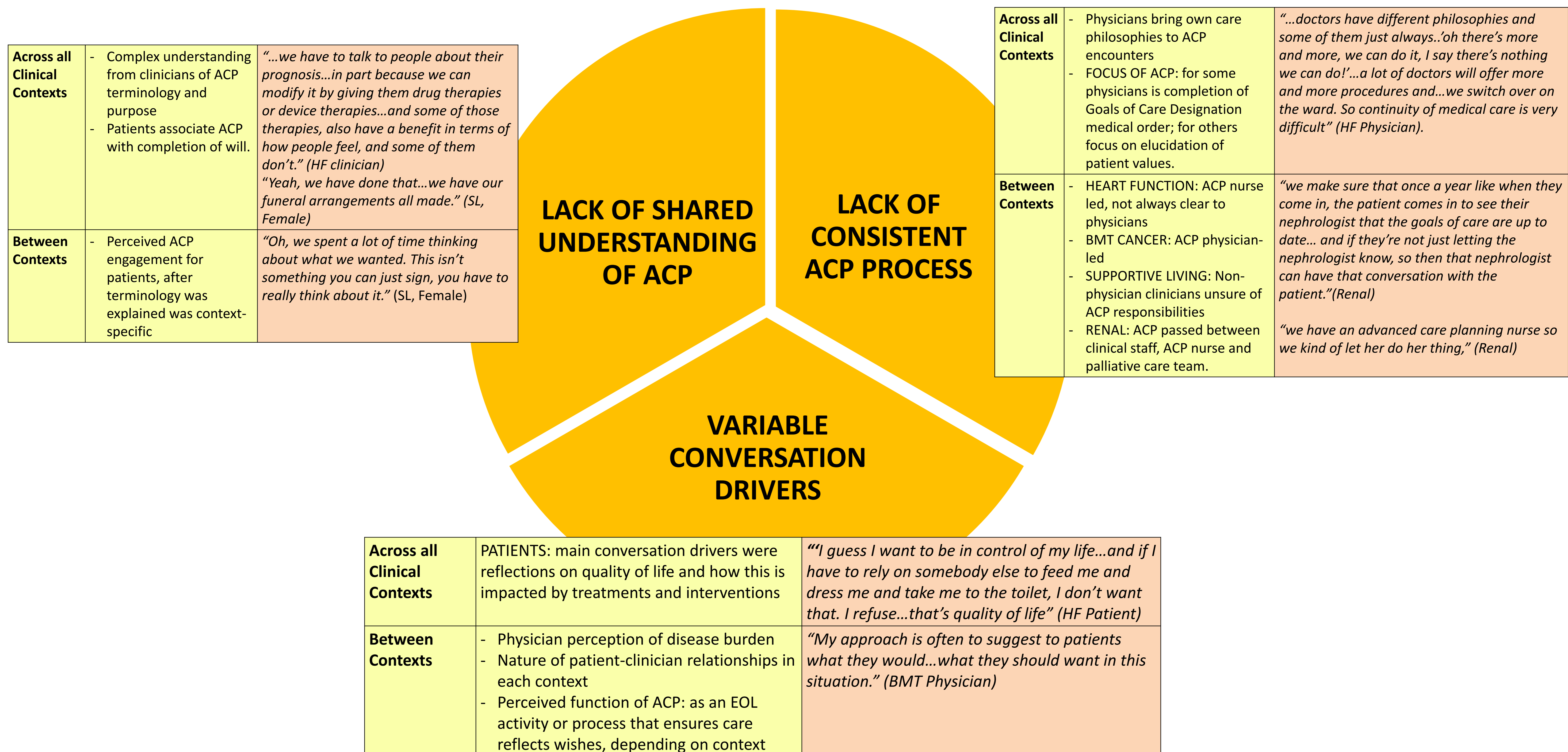
- Qualitative interpretive descriptive (ID)¹ design, applied to multi-perspective study
- Data collection consisted of one-on-one semi structured interviews with participants at a time and location of their choosing. Interviews were recorded and transcribed for analysis.

Participants

	Patients	Clinicians
Supportive Living	10	9
Heart Function out-patient clinic	8	9
Renal out-patient Clinic	7	6
Cancer out-patient clinic	8	9

Findings:

Variation in attitudes, approaches and processes around ACP were found both across and between contexts



Discussion:

- ACP process and consistency across clinical contexts has not been previously studied in a single study.
- Main significance of our findings is that persistent practice variation related to ACP engagement is not necessarily reflective of a focus on patient quality of life or wishes.
- Important to recognize a universal process is not compatible with the realities of varying contexts, so evidence of best practice from one context may need to be adapted before implementation in another context.
 - Next steps:
 - Engage and empower medical units/clinical settings to evaluate and develop relevant processes around ACP engagement.
 - Promote use of serious illness conversation guide to drive and structure ACP conversations with patients².

References:

- ¹Thorne, S. (2016). *Interpretive description: Qualitative research for applied practice* (Vol. 2). Routledge.
- ²Bernacki, R. et al., (2015) Development of the Serious Illness Conversation Guide. *BMJ Open*.

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