

Identity and home when living with advanced cancer

By: MA (Ed) in educational studies, Ph.D. student Jesper Larsen Mærsk

Background

Changing health policies have shifted the provision of care of people with advanced cancer to the privacy of home to prolong the period of independent living. Moreover, research has shown that home is where people with advanced cancer occupy most of their time and where they are engaged in most of their daily activities. However, little is known of how living and managing daily life at home, which may change both physically and symbolic as it becomes a place of care, influence sense of self and identity of people with advanced cancer.

Aim

The overall purpose of this study is to explore sense of self and identity in the context of living at home with advanced cancer. In particular, this study seeks to explore:

- Engagement in occupation in relation to sense of self of people with advanced cancer living at home.
- How living and managing daily life at home serve to maintain or threaten identity among people with advanced cancer.
- How uncertainty in daily life influences habits and self of people with advanced cancer living at home.

Method

Grounded Theory method is used to guide collection and analysis of empirical data. Empirical data is generated from in-depth interviews, participant diaries and participant observations with people with advanced cancer, their relatives, and health-care professionals.

Project status

The first three articles are underway.