

How Do Diagnostic Self-Tests Change Healthcare Relationships? A Qualitative Study

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Funded by:



Mentors:



Introduction

Background

- **Diagnostic self-tests** in pharmacies = a recent phenomenon (2017)
- Likely to have an impact on the healthcare relationships (collaboration)?

Research question:

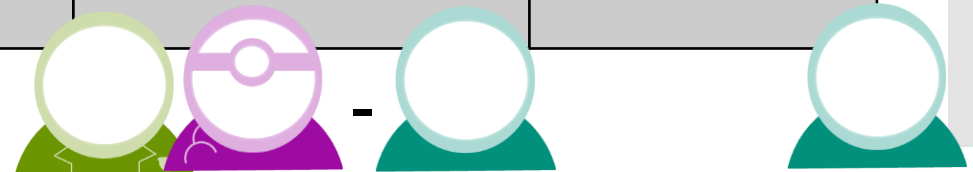
How does the introduction of diagnostic self-tests influence the healthcare relationships:

- between patients and health professionals?
- among health professionals: General practitioners -GPs- and Pharmacists?

Method: Exploratory qualitative study

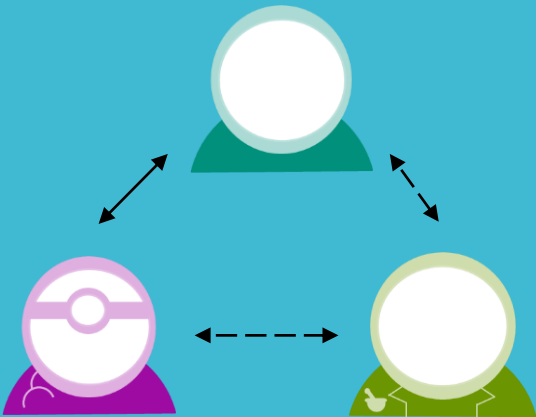
- Semi-structured interviews. Data saturation. Reflexive thematic analysis
- 18 patients, 25 GPs, and 16 pharmacists, from Brussels
- Szasz & Hollender, 1956; Botelho, 1992 as an explanatory framework

Passivity-Activity	Guidance-Cooperation	Mutual partnership	Autononism
Unilateral information	Start to personnalise	• Co-decision • Motivation • (Co)-autonomy	



Results:

1. Healthcare Relationship



Focus on the Patient-Doctors relations: more expectation!

Main results

- GPs: Mutual partnership does not seem to be mainstreamed
- Patients: 2 categories: satisfied versus unsatisfied

For the unsatisfied patients:

Experience of the relationship

« No explanations, non holistic view of the body, no consideration for my priorities ».

Expectations

Clear and understandable explanations (why, what to do, ...), respect for my health options (less medication, no invasive treatment, ...)

« Autonomous » health behaviours

Unilateral adaptation of therapy, self-medication with herbs, choice of doctor via the internet, patient associations,...

Results:

2. Influence of self-tests on the Patient-Doctor relationships

Very limited influence

- GPs and Patients were hardly aware of their existence
- Low sales, influence of media

Different appreciation of self-tests:

- Patients were generally in favour of self-tests
- Most GPs had not yet a clear-cut position

Different profiles:

	Self-test perception	Perceived Change on	Perceived Change compared to current practices
	PRO	Patients' role: positive change GPs' role: no change	Existing trend
	AGAINST	GPs' role: negative change	Avoidance of change
	PRO	Patients' role: positive change	Existing or Expected trend
	AGAINST	Patient-Doctor relationship: negative change	Avoidance of change

Conclusions



Limitations

No paired samples, volunteering bias, qualitative data

Conclusions

- Mutual partnership is not mainstreamed
- Patients were more in favour of self-tests (empowerment)

Implications for practice

A need for professionals to be better skilled with participative approaches (explanations based on patients' knowledge, dialogue about health options)

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