

Supplementary material

Supplementary Material 1

Participants were recruited via four different sampling strategies:

1.1. Newsletters

- Ghent University Hospital
- Christelijke Mutualiteit (Christian Health Insurance Fund)
- deMens.nu

1.2. Longitudinal survey study of the BE-CARED project

The BE-CARED project, funded by 'Kom op tegen Kanker' ('Stand up against Cancer'), is a mixed method study. This study aims to develop tailored bereavement care in the context of oncology and assisted dying (euthanasia) via: a longitudinal survey study, two interview studies, a literature study, and a focus group study. A collaboration was established with Flemish hospitals and palliative homecare organizations to aid in recruiting participants for the longitudinal survey study. People could participate if they lost a loved one to cancer, whether or not due to euthanasia, and received specialized palliative care from a hospital (palliative care unit or a palliative support team) or homecare. People whose loved one died due to euthanasia received an invitation seven months post-loss to participate in a one-time semistructured interview about their experiences in terms of being involved in the euthanasia process of their family member with cancer.

- Hospitals
 - AZ Delta
 - AZ Glorieux
 - AZ Groeninge
 - AZ Klina
 - AZ Sint-Jan
 - Heilig Hart Ziekenhuis Lier
 - UZ Gent
 - UZ Leuven
 - Vitaz
 - ZNA
- Palliative homecare organizations
 - Coda
 - Heidehuis
 - Pallion
 - Waasland
 - Zuid-West Vlaanderen

1.3. Advocacy groups focused on:

- Caregivers, such as Coponcho, steunpunt mantelzorg, etc.
- The elderly, such as Okra, Vlaamse Ouderenraad, Neos vzw, S-Plus vzw,...
- End-of-life and grief, such as Forum Palliatieve Zorg Vlaanderen, LEIF (End-of-life Information Forum), Vonkel, Missing You, etc.

1.4. Snowball sampling

Snowball sampling is a popular sampling method, in which researchers start with a number of initial contacts, who comply with the research criteria, and are invited to take part in the study. In turn, the researchers ask these participants if they know someone who also fits the research criteria and might be willing to participate. Snowball-sampling was used to recruit participant groups that were less represented, such as grandchildren or people who had negative experiences related to the euthanasia.

Supplementary Material 2

Table 2: Questions from the latest version of the interview guide

Introduction question
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How do you experience the request for euthanasia of your loved one?
Before euthanasia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● To which extent were you informed of his/her wish to receive euthanasia? How were you informed?● To which extent do you accept the euthanasia request of your loved one? To which extent has your opinion changed throughout the trajectory?● How do you experience saying goodbye to your loved one? To which extent did you talk about his/her future death?
Day of the euthanasia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How do you experience the day of the euthanasia? How do you experience the performance of euthanasia (from a distance)? How do you feel the moment the lethal medication was administered? How do you feel the moment his/her death was confirmed?● What motivated you to (not) be present during the performance of euthanasia?● How was the atmosphere during the performance of euthanasia? Who was present in the room? What is the last image that you have of your loved one?

Aftercare

- When does the trajectory with healthcare providers end for you? To which extent do you still have contact with healthcare providers? To which extent did you expect healthcare providers to initiate contact with you post-loss?
- How do you cope with the loss? What gives you strength? What do you find the hardest? How does the future without him/her look like?
- Which meaning has euthanasia currently to you?

Overarching questions

- Which support did/do you receive from healthcare providers? To which extent did/does this help you? Which support do you want to receive? What do you find important in regard to staff's support?
- How do you feel? What are your thoughts? Which experiences do you have?
- Which things facilitated your involvement in the euthanasia process? Which things complicated this?