

Cost Talk: Helping Patients and Urologists Talk about Costs of Care

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We tested the effect of a decision aid about slow-growing prostate cancer treatment:

- Risk/benefit information and relative cost information for three main management options (active surveillance, radiation, surgery)
- Financial information, including community resources, help finding out-of-pocket costs

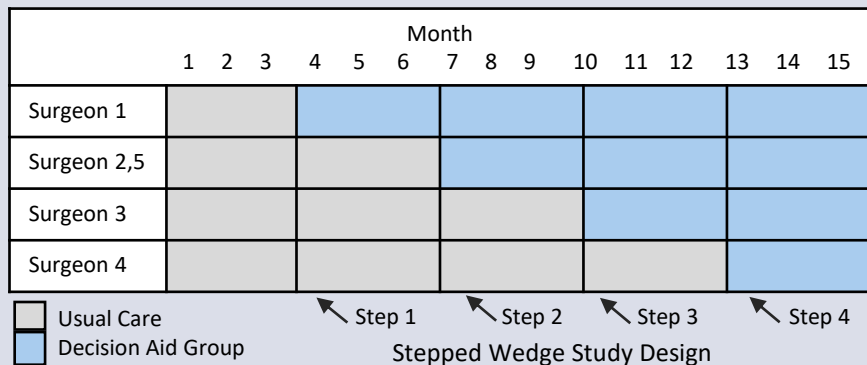
Who participated?

117 men with slow-growing prostate cancer

- 51 in the usual care group
- 66 in the decision aid group

Mean age = 63 (range 39-78)

5 urologic surgeons



Main Findings:

- **Cost conversations** happened at about the same rate in both groups
- Both groups reported about the same **cancer-related financial burden**
- Those in the **decision aid group had lower decisional conflict**
- Those in the decision aid group were more likely to be undecided about how to treat their cancer at first, **but resolved uncertainty** by the follow-up

Other Important Findings:

- Most patients (67%) preferred to discuss costs with doctors vs. others on care team
- Most (74%) patients said they want to know their out-of-pocket costs before treatment

Next Steps:

- Refine and test the decision aid with more diverse patients at multiple cancer centers
- Broaden eligibility criteria to reach more men, allowing urologic surgeons to select which treatment to display, with each option on one page rather than all together