

Oncology Patient and Caregivers’ Perspectives on Value Assessment Frameworks: A Qualitative Study

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BACKGROUND

- Value assessment frameworks (VAFs) have been developed by several organizations to guide decision making about oncology treatments.¹
- The goal of VAFs is to delineate the value of treatments by weighing the financial cost of treatment compared to clinical outcomes such as toxicity, survival and/or clinical benefit, and symptom palliation.¹
- VAFs may fall short of being patient-centered as there has been little patient engagement in their development.^{1,2}

This study explored oncology patients' and family caregivers' perspectives of VAFs.

METHODS

- A qualitative inquiry using semi-structured interviews via focus group. Interpretive Description³ was used to analyze data.
- Sixty (n=60) patients and family caregivers from three provinces in Canada between November 2021 to August 2023.



RESULTS

Figure 1. Participant demographics (type, sex, age, tumor types)

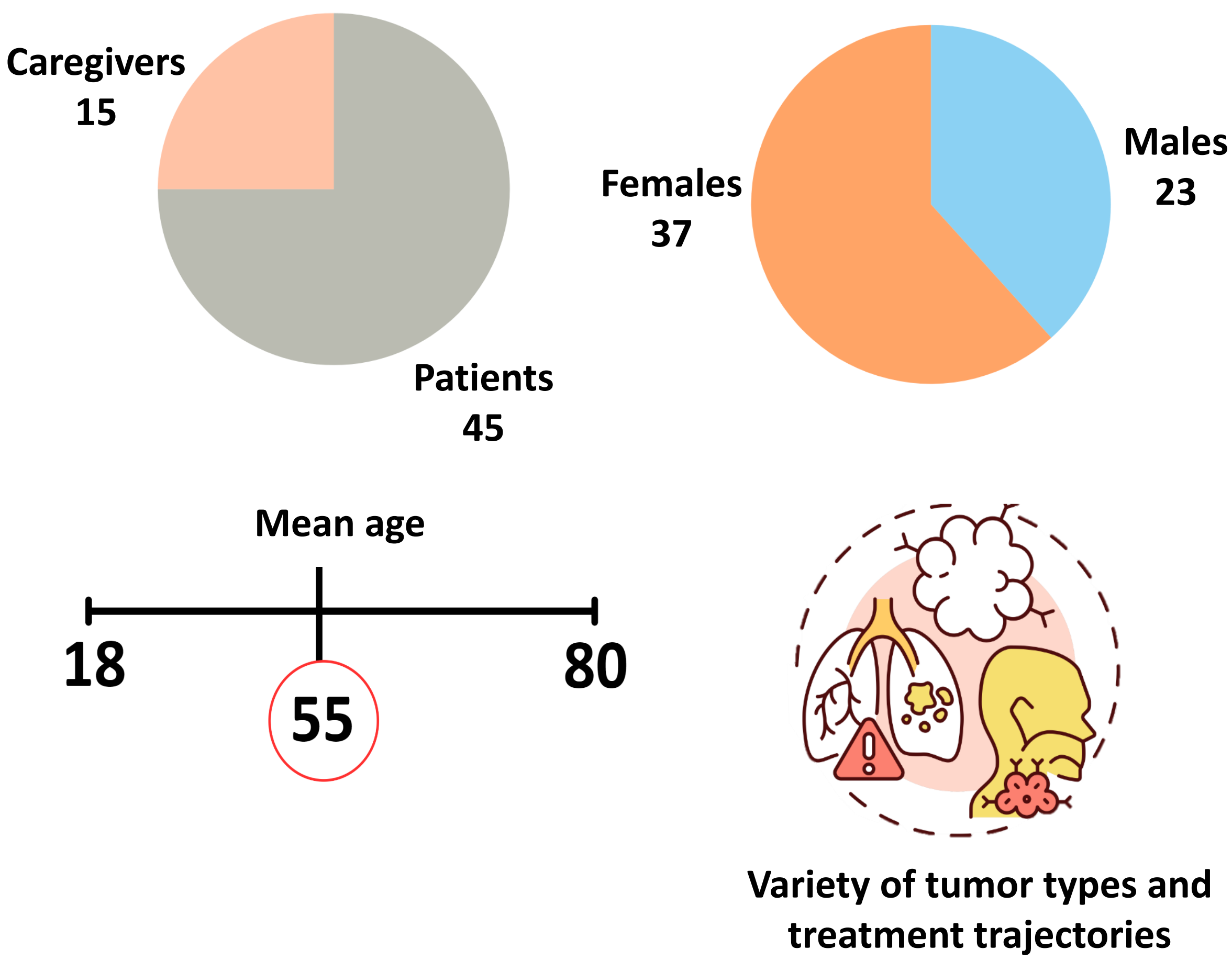


Figure 2: Emerging themes of VAFs

1 Patient values are personal and contextual

“Get to know me, get to know my values”

“Right now I’d be willing to put up with a lot of side effects for something that was effective. I can see at a certain point where it might be questionable whether the quality of life that I’m able to enjoy with the treatment makes it of less value because it’s not living. It depends on the context”

“Well I think it’s very personal. If a patient’s life is going to be extended by two years, what is the quality of the life for that two years and what are the values that matter to that patient over that two year period”

2 VAFs fall short of supporting shared-decision making

“But we’re a not statistic. We are people so I’d been very careful about choosing a framework without personalizing it ”

“There’s a lot of things that are very qualitative, and this hasn’t really been taken into account.. like your sense of well-being, can you do various things, I feel like the value framework just ranks everything and it’s very black and white”

“But it’s not up to the doctors or the specialists to make the value decisions. And that’s, to me, that’s very important is to have all the options.”

Figure 3. Factors related to patients and caregivers’ determination of the value of treatment

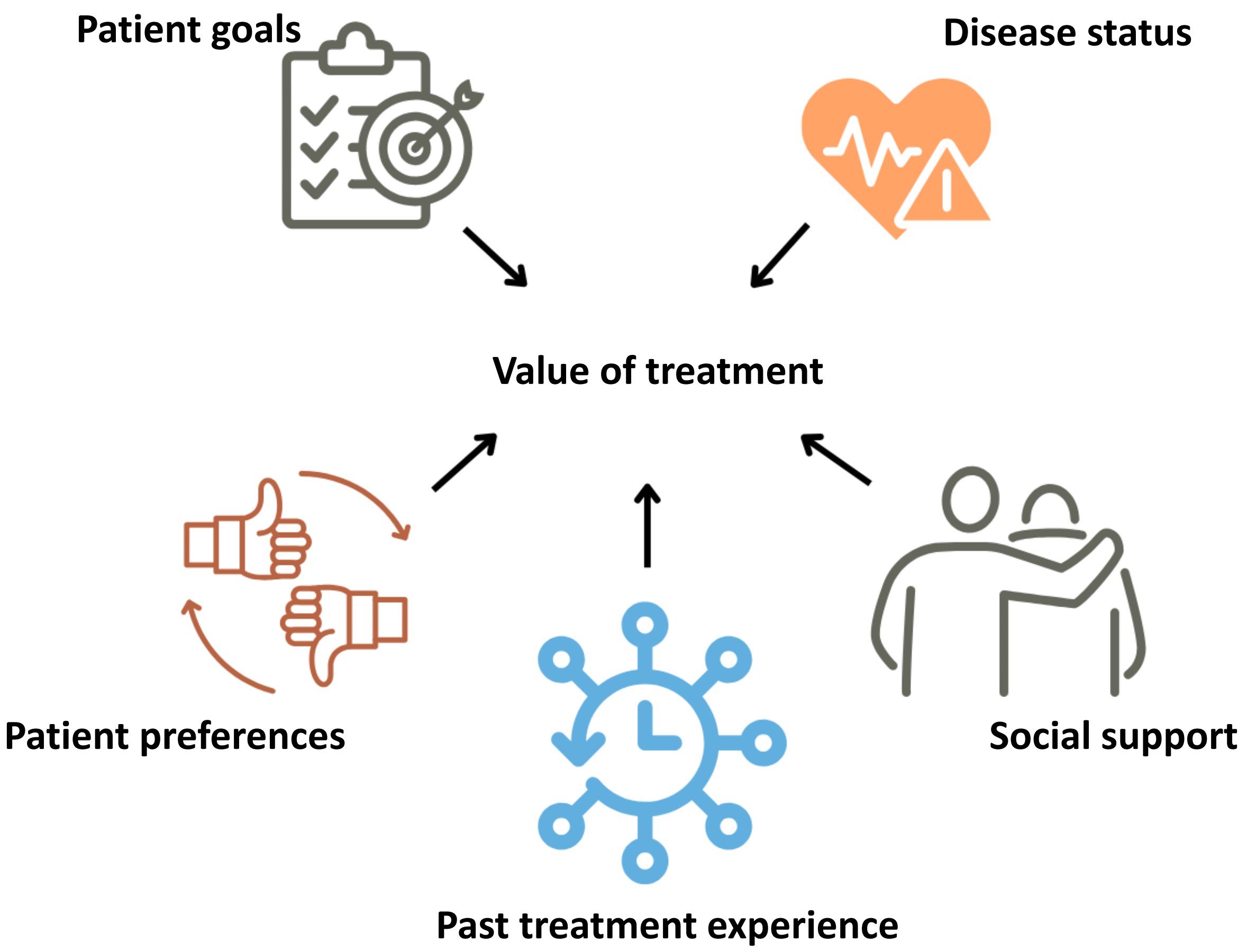
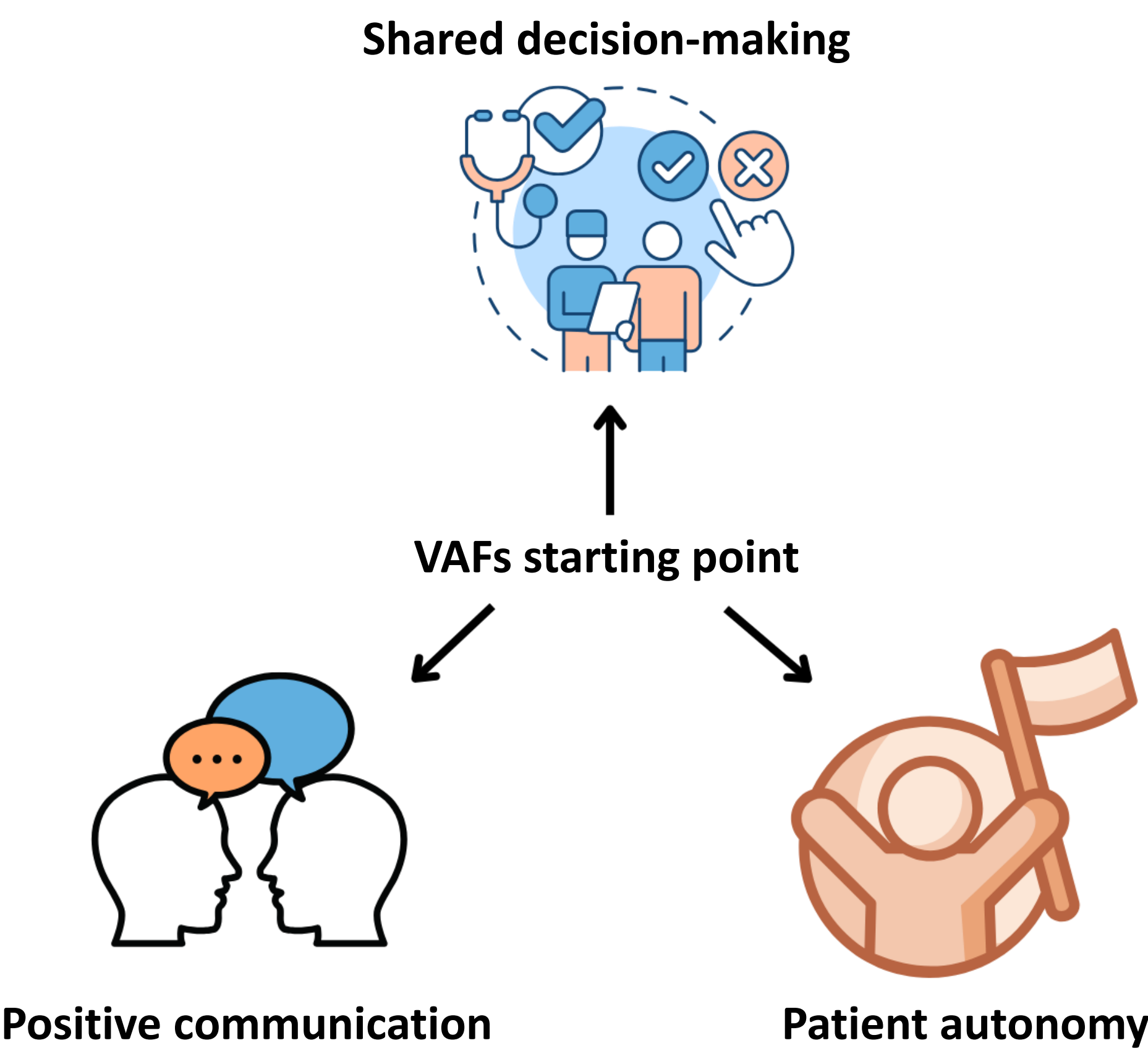


Figure 4. Patient views of utility of VAFs



CONCLUSIONS

- Current oncology VAFs lack important elements of value as individually defined by patients and caregivers
- VAFs can be a prompt to tailor shared decision-making discussions and help determine patient priorities, which should be reassessed throughout the treatment and survivorship trajectory
- To ensure more patient-centered VAFs in oncology, future revisions should include rigorous patient engagement processes

References:
1. Schnipper LE et al. Updating the American Society of Clinical Oncology Value Framework: Revisions and Reflections in Response to Comments Received. JCO, 2016; 34(24). DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2016.68.2518
2. Peretto EM. ISPOR's initiative on US value assessment frameworks: A missed opportunity for ISPOR and patients. Value in Health, 2018.
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