

Appendix 11. Codes related to distress and their frequency of application

Codes related to distress: detail and frequency

Codes relating to distress that were applied 50 or more times were: discomfort/inconvenience and other minor distress associated with diagnostic tests/treatments /side-effects; openly expressed fear/anxiety; shock upon diagnosis; the recognition of life threat; and observed or expressed depressed affect.

Codes applied 20-49 times were: the expression of anger; of loss; of feeling degradation or disregard (e.g. in how spoken to by a medical professional); and of having one's masculinity damaged; distress due to uncertainty or waiting (e.g. for diagnostic or prognostic test results); a disturbing lack of control; feeling isolated or lonely due to cancer; crying; distress in relation to a role (e.g. as a sexual partner); and self-pity.

Codes applied less than 20 times were: negative feelings arising out of comparison with other cancer patients; anxiety in anticipation of test results; and a feeling of being disconnected from mainstream life.