

# Basic End-of-Life care using the Acute Basic Palliation Concept - A comparison of treatment quality between cancer patients and non-cancer as evaluated by relatives and health staff

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## BACKGROUND

While End-of-Life care or terminal care has been extensively studied in cancer patients,<sup>1,2</sup> patients with non-cancer terminal illnesses receive less attention and are less likely to be offered palliative end-of-life care. The aim of this study was to compare if the effectiveness of symptom relief in cancer patients compared to non-cancer patients were comparable when treated with the ABPC

## ACUTE BASIC PALLIATION CONCEPT

The concept consists of eight components, developed to support staff and relatives. The concept has been created in collaboration between emergency doctors, palliative doctors, municipal nurses, and DanAge Aalborg.

### For doctors

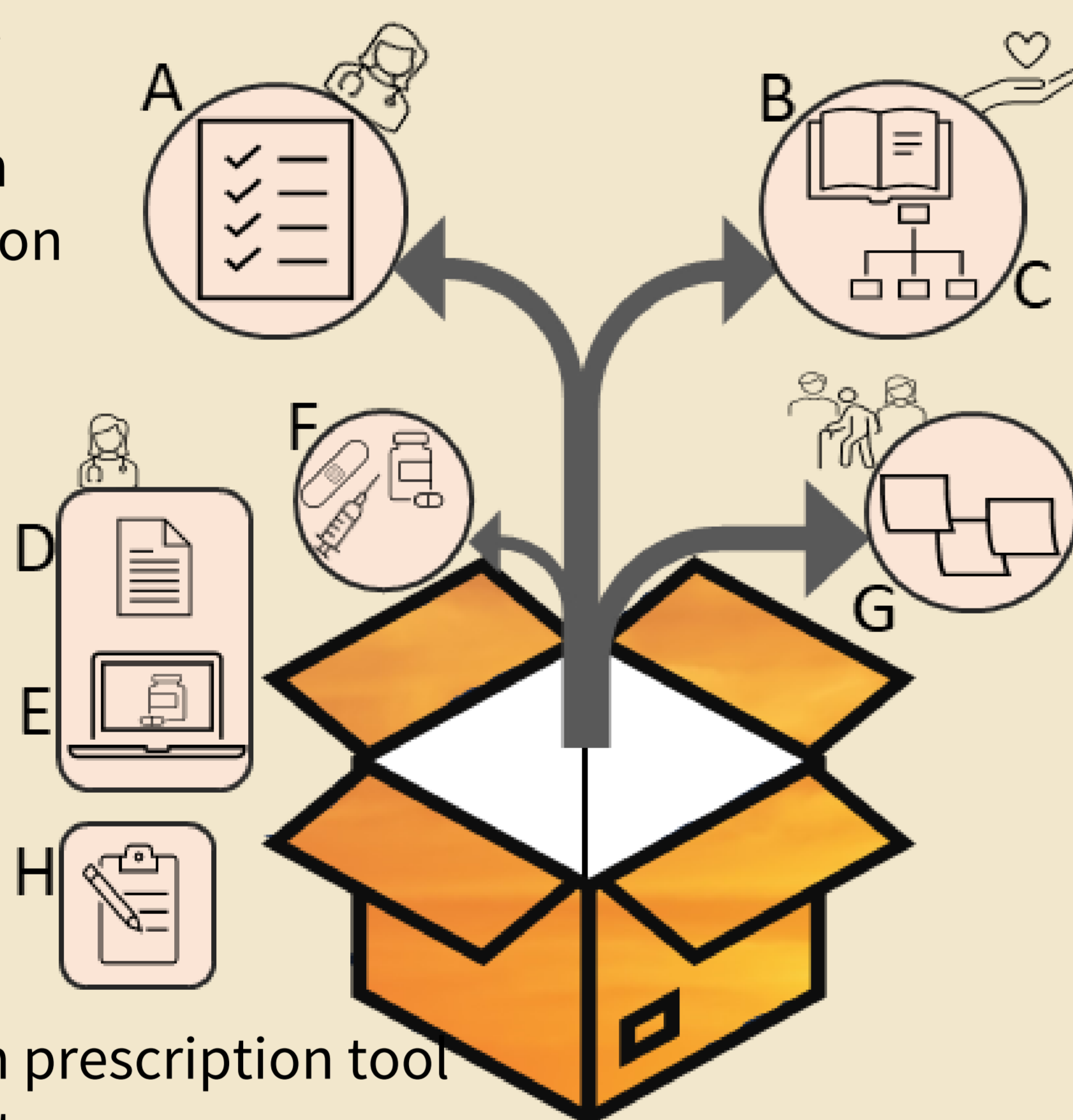
- Checklist
- Guideline
- Electronic medication prescription tool
- Standard medical text

### For municipality nurses

- Guideline
- Medicine administration decision support (flowchart)

- Box with medication and end-of-life care supplies

- Information for patients and relatives



## METHODS

In 2024-2025, all patients discharged to End-of-Life care using the ABPC in the North Denmark Region were monitored. Electronic questionnaires were sent to all healthcare staff involved in the End-of-Life care of patients at the hospitals and in the municipalities. Relatives were contacted after the patient's funeral and invited to complete a questionnaire.

## RESULTS

During the study period 182 patients (60 cancer patients) were included. Patients in the two groups were highly comparable on characteristics, but non-cancer patients had higher prevalence of dementia or other cognitive damage ( $p < .0001$ ). Overall, we found no significant differences in the quality of the End-of-Life care when asking the relatives. However significantly more relatives to non-cancer patients answered, that the patient should have stayed at the hospital to die (1.9% versus 6.4%,  $p = 0.007$ ).

## CONCLUSION

End-of-Life care provided by non-specialists in palliative medicine using the Acute Basic Palliation Concept resulted in an equally high treatment quality for both cancer and non-cancer patients.

