

## INFLUENCE OF INFORMATION MODE ON PATIENT'S EDUCATION LEVEL.

A questionnaire compared the education level of 2 groups of patients according as they received verbal or written information.

The population investigated consisted of cancer patients having undergone radiation therapy on the head and neck area 1 to 5 years ago. The first group concerned 143 cases verbally informed by the treatment team in course of irradiation. The second comprises 104 patients having besides received an information booklet at their first admission ("Radiotherapy and You").

An anonymous questionnaire with 14 items aimed at assessing the quality and degree of information. The main inquiries referred to the nature of disease, radiation action, side-effects, diet, social and financial problems, etc ... Each patient had the choice among 4 degrees of response according as he thought himself to be informed : not at all (0), little (+), fairly (+) or fully (++) . More than 80% answered in each group of patients. On the whole, analysis indicates a significant shift towards more positive values in favour of written information.

INFORMATION	0	+	+	++
verbal	21 $\pm$ 12	15 $\pm$ 3	15 $\pm$ 6	49 $\pm$ 11
written	8 $\pm$ 8	9 $\pm$ 5	16 $\pm$ 6	67 $\pm$ 13

n = % patients  $\pm$  SD

Results for each item will be detailed and discussed in the presentation with statistical interpretation.

Our study confirms the positive influence of written information coming in recall and reinforcement of verbal communication.