

## ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the development of a patient organization for prostate cancer patients to link the medical system to the needs of patients and their loved ones. The research involved mapping the needs of patients and healthcare professionals through qualitative interviews. Findings suggest that patients evaluate their experience of the disease primarily through treatment and contact with health professionals, with communication with doctors playing a key role. However, the healthcare system still shows deficiencies in communication and information provision, thus not providing enough support to patients. At the same time, health professionals are found to be poorly informed about patient organisations, but with a willingness to cooperate in the future.

In order to make the change, two sets of conditions were defined. Realistic conditions for the successful use of patient organisation services include informing patients and health professionals about their existence and activities, and actively encouraging patients to seek information. Idealistic conditions include a change in the perception of gender roles in society and greater involvement of patients in shaping the health system. The paper proposes steps to achieve these conditions, including the presentation of research findings and collaboration with physicians and patient organizations.

Overall, the paper provides important insights into the needs of prostate cancer patients and points the way towards better integration of patient organisations into patient care. With its participatory approach and action plan, the thesis is a first step towards implementing changes for the benefit of patients and their loved ones in the context of oncological care.