

Supplement to:

Goldsmith, D. J., & Miller, G. E. (in press). Conceptualizing how couples talk about cancer. *Health Communication*.

*Means or Modes for Features of Talk by Topic of Talk*

Topic	Openness mean <sup>a</sup>	Difficulty mean <sup>b</sup>	Frequency mode <sup>c</sup>	Focus facts mean <sup>d</sup>	Focus Medical mean <sup>d</sup>	Focus Concrete mean <sup>d</sup>	Focus Now mean <sup>d</sup>	Disagree mean <sup>e</sup>	Satisfaction mean
Treatment decision-making	1.58	1.1	6	1.43	1.48	1.38	1.82	1.46	4.74
Sex	1.38	1.6	2	2.33	2.33	1.00	2.50	1.67	4.00
Death	1.00	1.77	1	2.19	2.33	1.33	3.00	1.58	4.00
Work & financial issues	1.16	1.27	2	1.42	3.00	1.13	2.00	1.55	4.33
Side effects & symptoms	1.25	1.33	2	2.14	2.14	1.22	1.57	1.58	4.30
Changes to everyday life & activities	1.19	1.30	2	1.40	2.33	1.00	1.50	2.00	4.00
Uncertainty	1.00	1.33	2	2.00	1.70	1.00	2.17	1.70	4.10
Coping & communication	1.50	1.25	1	2.50	2.29	1.00	1.57	2.70	5.00
Appearance & body image	1.50	1.50	1	2.63	3.00	*	2.00	1.44	3.40
Diagnosis	1.44	1.00	1	1.83	1.67	1.00	2.00	1.00	4.00
Burdens & inequalities	1.00	1.50	2	3.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	3.00
Telling others	1.57	1.25	1	2.25	2.50	1.00	1.00	1.57	4.33
Changes to identity	1.33	1.30	4	1.40	2.33	1.00	1.50	2.00	4.00

Living life fully	1.67	1.00	2	2.00	2.33	1.67	2.00	1.20	4.00
Feelings	0.60	*	No mode	3.00	3.00	*	1.00	1.75	2.00
Making sense of cancer	1.00	1.00	4	2.33	2.00	3.00	*	1.00	*

Notes:

<sup>a</sup> Openness was scaled as follows: 0 = have not talked, 1 = between no talk and talk freely, 2 = talked freely

<sup>b</sup> Difficulty was scaled as follows: 1 = easy, 2 = difficulty

<sup>c</sup> Frequency was scaled as follows: 1 = once or just a few times, 2 = occasionally when an episode arises, 3 = some of the time, 4 = recurring, 5 = comes up over and over, 6 = frequently until a resolution or decision is reached

<sup>d</sup> Focus dimensions were scaled as follows: 1 = facts, medical, concrete, or now; 2 = talked about both ends of continua; 3 = feelings, personal, big picture, or future

<sup>e</sup> Disagreement was scaled as follows: 1 = doesn't appear to be disagreement to express; 2 = they disagree, but they don't express it to avoid arguing; 3 = they disagree and they express it but they don't argue; 4 = they argue about it

<sup>f</sup> Satisfaction with communication was rated orally in the interview using this scale: 1 = I am very dissatisfied with our communication about this issue; 2 = I am somewhat dissatisfied with our communication but it could be better; 3 = I feel neutral, not all that satisfied but not all that dissatisfied either; 4 = I am somewhat satisfied with our communication about this issue; 5 = I am very satisfied with our communication about this issue

\* Relatively few participants reported on this topic and they gave insufficient information to code