# Are Patient Preferences Incorporated into Treatment Decisions?

Nancy L. Keating, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine & Health Care
Policy, Harvard Medical School
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### Questions

- Are patients being informed about treatment options?
- What role are patients playing in treatment decisions?
- What role do patients want in treatment decisions?

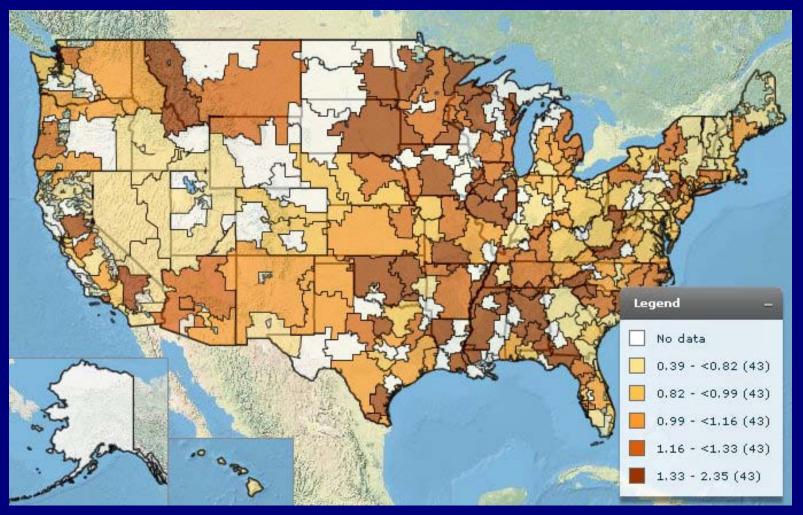
### Patient VK

- 51 yo woman diagnosed with 2 cm, node negative, estrogen receptor positive breast cancer in 2001
- Surgeon discussed:
  - Mastectomy
  - Breast-conserving surgery—a newer procedure that only took out the cancer, but might not be as effective
- Patient chose mastectomy—the "better treatment"

### **Breast Cancer Decision Making**

- For most women with stage I/II cancer, 2 treatments with equivalent outcomes
  - Mastectomy vs. breast-conserving surgery with radiation (BCS)
  - Evidence since 1980s, NIH Consensus
     Conference underscores equivalence in 1990
- Choice should be based on patients' preferences

### Substantial Variation in Treatment



MASTECTOMY RATES PER 1,000 FEMALE MEDICARE ENROLLEES, 2005

Source: Dartmouth Atlas

# Treatment Decision Making in 2 Cohorts of Cancer Patients

- 1. 1081 women living in MN or MA diagnosed with stage I/II breast cancer in 1993-1995 asked about breast cancer surgery
- 2. 5383 patients diagnosed with lung or colorectal cancer in 2003-2005 at a CanCORS site asked about decisions for surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation

### CanCORS Sites

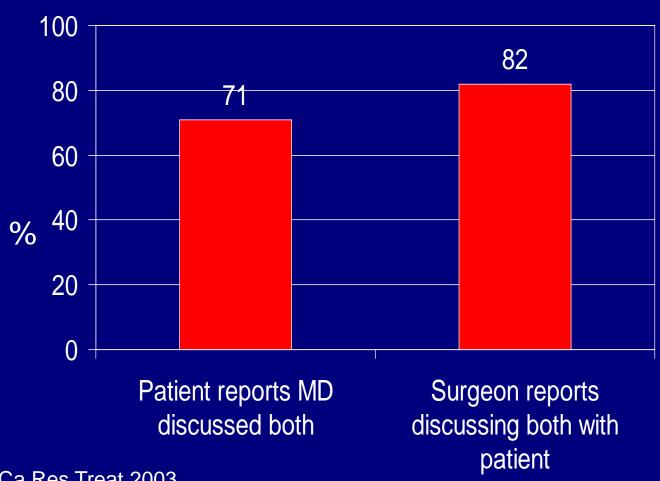


- Patients from population-based cohorts in geographic areas
- Patients from integrated health-care delivery systems
  - Patients at Veterans Health Administration hospitals

# Are Patients Being Informed of Treatment Options?

# Are Women Being Informed of Options?

MN/MA Cohort and their Physicians



Keating et al, Br Ca Res Treat 2003

## Surgeon vs. Patient Report

Surgeon Report

Discussed Both Discussed One

Discussed Both

Patient Report

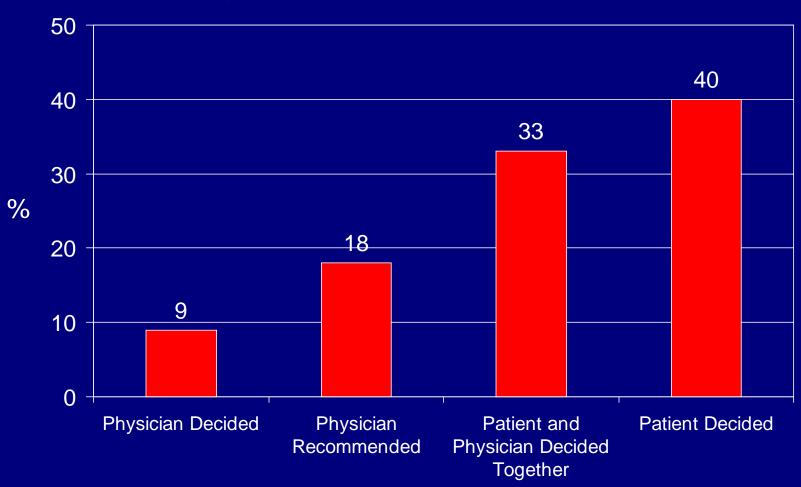
Discussed One

60%	10%
22%	7%

# What Role are Cancer Patients Playing in Treatment Decisions?

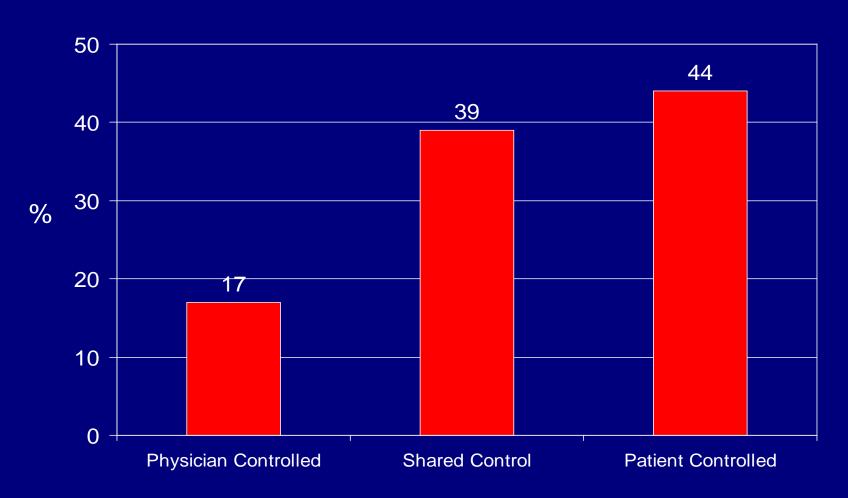
### What Role are Patients Playing?

#### MN/MA Breast Cancer Cohort



### What Role are Patients Playing?

### CanCORS Lung & Colorectal Cancer Cohort



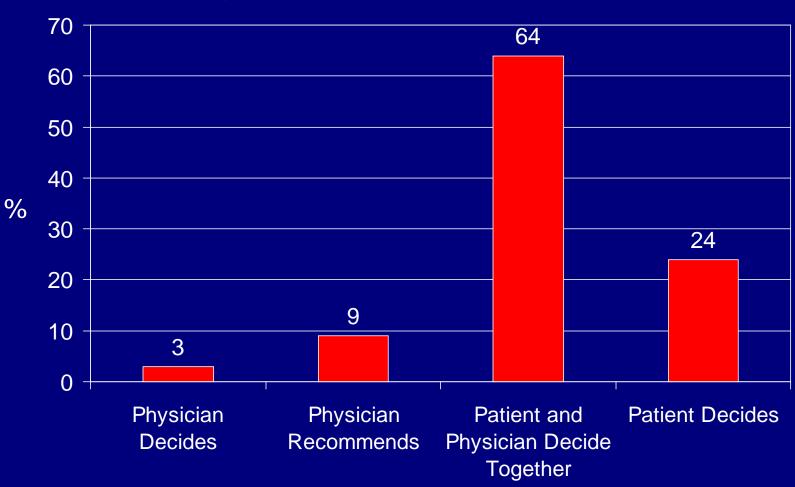
# What Role Do Patients Want to Play in Treatment Decisions?

## Patients Vary in Preferences for Participating in Decisions

- Nearly all patients desire information about treatments
- Many prefer passive to active role
  - Older patients
  - -Patients with more serious illness

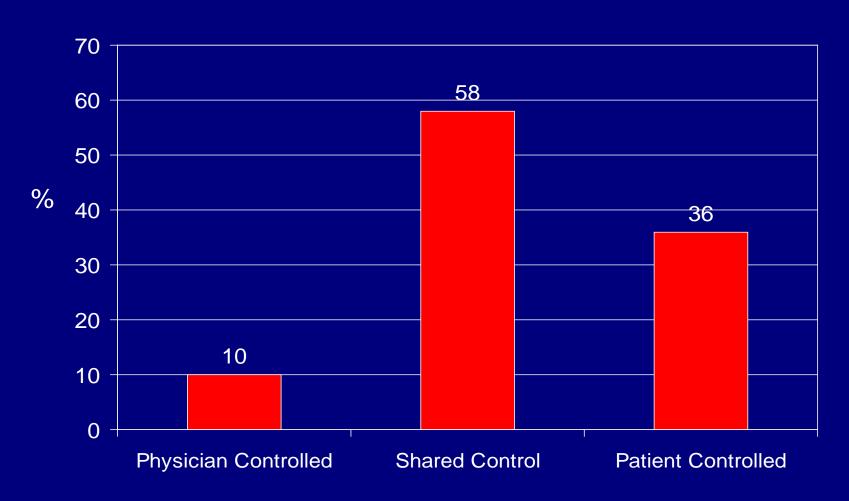
### What Role do Patients Desire?

#### MN/MA Breast Cancer Cohort



### What Role do Patients Desire?

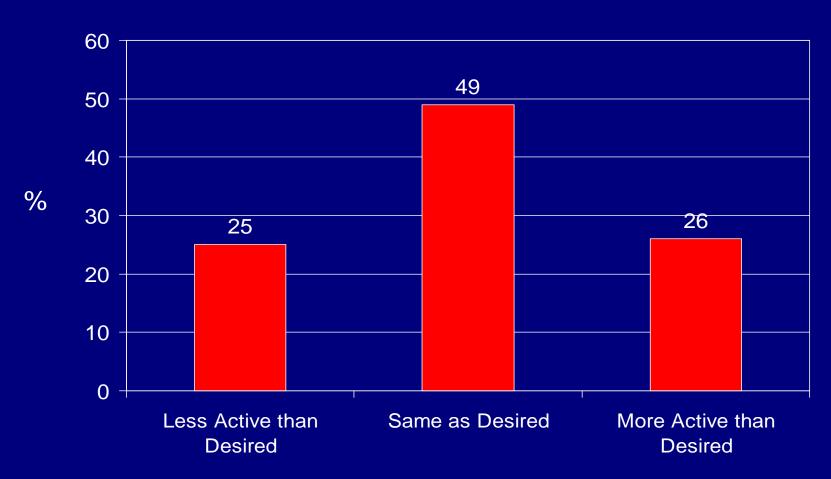
### CanCORS Lung & Colorectal Cancer Cohort



## How Often Does Patients' Actual Role Match their Desired Role?

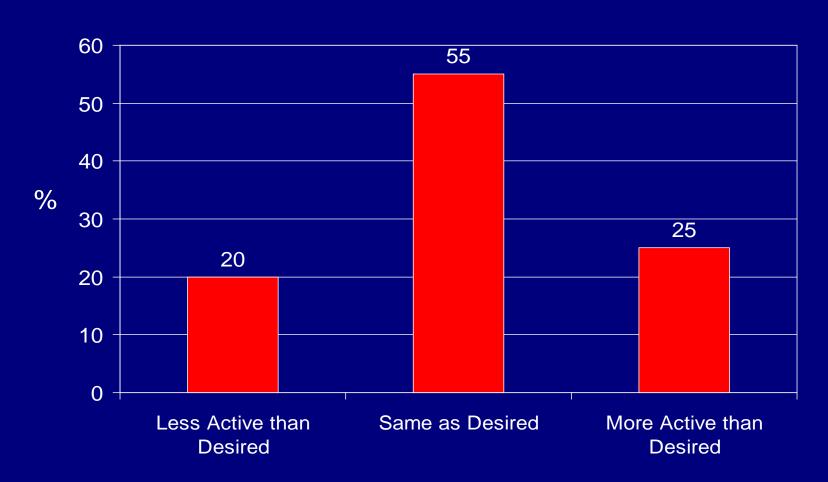
# How Often does the Actual Role Match the Desired Role?

#### MN/MA Breast Cancer Cohort



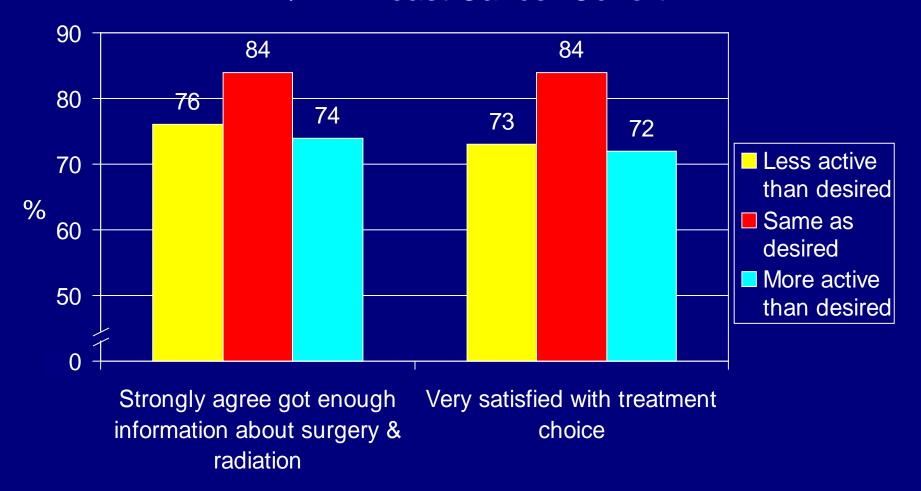
# How Often does the Actual Role Match the Desired Role?

CanCORS Lung & Colorectal Cancer Cohort



# Are There Benefits of Matching Actual Role to Desired Role?

#### MN/MA Breast Cancer Cohort



## Summary

- Patients not always being informed about treatment options, even when good evidence
- Most patients want to participate in treatment decisions, but some do not
- Many patients have little or no participation in treatment decisions
- Only half of patients have an actual role in decisions that matches their preferred role

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