

Table 2
Study variables including the preparation, exploration and communication stages of bad news communication for the studied population

Variable	Never N (%)	Sometimes N (%)	Usually N (%)	Always N (%)	N° data N (%)
Preparation stage					
Familiarizes with the patients' medical history*	-	-	11 (20.0)	44 (80.0)	-
Arranges for privacy*	-	1 (1.2)	27 (32.9)	27 (32.9)	-
Ensures having enough time available*	-	2 (2.4)	22 (26.8)	31 (37.8)	-
Rehearses mentally*	8 (9.8)	20 (24.4)	14 (17.1)	13 (15.9)	-
Jots down important data to tell*	27 (32.9)	18 (22)	6 (7.3)	4 (4.9)	-
Identifies own emotions*	13 (15.9)	16 (19.5)	18 (22.0)	8 (9.8)	-
Assumes that importance is the same for both*	8 (9.8)	7 (8.5)	22 (26.8)	15 (18.3)	-
Exploration stage					
Knows the patient's caregivers and/or relatives and their relationship	-	15 (18.3)	33 (40.2)	33 (40.2)	1 (1.2)
Assesses the patient's level of knowledge	-	3 (3.7)	23 (28)	55 (67.1)	1 (1.2)
Identifies the patient's information preferences	3 (3.7)	21 (25.6)	31 (37.8)	26 (31.7)	1 (1.2)
Identifies the patient's emotions	4 (4.9)	13 (15.9)	32 (39.0)	32 (39)	1 (1.2)
Acknowledges cultural and socio-economic aspects	2 (2.4)	2 (2.4)	32 (39.0)	45 (54.9)	1 (1.2)
Communication stage					
Uses straightforward language	4 (4.9)	22 (26.8)	56 (68.3)		
Gives information in small pieces	1 (1.2)	14 (17.1)	34 (41.5)	32 (39.0)	1 (1.2)
Assesses patient's understanding	-	5 (6.1)	32 (39.0)	45 (54.9)	-
Uses diagrams and drawings	7 (8.5)	27 (32.9)	32 (39.0)	16 (19.5)	-
Balances among honesty, compassion and hope	-	3 (3.7)	42 (51.2)	37 (45.1)	-
Allows the patient to interrupt	-	1 (1.2)	19 (23.2)	62 (75.6)	-
Tolerates silence and weeping	-	-	18 (22.0)	64 (78.0)	-
Encourages the patient to express emotions	1 (1.2)	14 (17.1)	31 (38.8)	36 (43.9)	-
Identifies the patient's feelings that require immediate attention	1 (1.2)	14 (17.1)	44 (53.7)	23 (28)	-
Ensures that the patient gets emotional support	3 (3.7)	24 (29.3)	34 (41.5)	21 (25.6)	-
Recognizes his/her own emotions	27 (32.9)	29 (35.4)	22 (26.8)	4 (4.9)	-
Avoids using words such as cancer, death, terminal illness, etc	1 (1.2)	11 (13.4)	44 (53.7)	26 (31.7)	-
Devises a joint action plan with the patient	-	4 (4.9)	22 (26.8)	56 (68.3)	-

* Responses from the participants who considered themselves as being prepared to communicate bad news