The purpose of this study is to examine what is important and meaningful in the lives of individuals living with brain cancer. Meaning is something that means different things to different people, but what we want to discover is what factors you take into consideration, when you are deciding to go ahead with some treatment. Asking these questions allows researchers and doctors to learn more about the illness experience and to understand what is important to patients when they design future treatments. For example, surgeons might want to know if a patient would agree to be partially paralyzed as a result of a new treatment in exchange for prolonging their survival for a few months. Answers to questions like this tell doctors what their patients’ value and allows them to tailor treatments to the interests and wishes of their patients. Each person is unique, and each person’s beliefs about their life and disease are different, so there are no right or wrong answers to these questions. Your privacy, of course, will be maintained and no one will be able to know how you answered these questions.

Questions

1. Do you have any questions about any of this?

2. What aspect of your life has been most affected by your diagnosis? This can be anything from physical ability or memory to personal relationships.

3. Have you ever thought about what having brain cancer means to you? For example, do you think having cancer of the brain is different in some way than having a different kind of cancer, like lung cancer? Tell me more.

4. What sorts of things do you take into account when your doctor discusses possible treatments with you? These could be things you may consider important in your life such as occupation, family, self-image, recreation etc.

5. I’m going to run through a few scenarios now, and I want you to tell me which choice you would go with, and also why you chose as you did. Would you agree to:
   a. Surgery to prolong survival for 3 months, but leaving paralyzed half of your body.
   b. Treatment to prolong survival for 6 months, but with memory severely impaired.
   c. Surgery to prolong survival for 1 year, but leaving your body completely paralyzed.
      i. Do you foresee any risk or cost that would make you not want to go ahead with treatment?
      ii. How many months/years of survival would you accept to agree to these consequences?

6. Do spiritual or religious beliefs help you cope with what has happened to you?

7. Has having this disease taught you anything new about yourself that you never knew before? For example, sometimes when people are diagnosed with certain diseases, they examine their life and reach some conclusions about themselves, those around them, their surroundings etc. Have you gone through a similar process? Please tell me more.

8. What are your opinions about euthanasia? Please tell me more.

9. As the final question, I just wanted to get a sense of what your thoughts are about this interview. Do you think studies like this are important? Do you have any questions, or thoughts you’d like to share at this point?