

DARG SESSION – 9.10.24

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ONCOLOGY SELF-HELP GROUPS

Context: The sequence below is taken from a recording of an oncology self-help group meeting taking place in San Giovanni in Persiceto, a small town near Bologna. The group is composed of both former and present oncology patients. It does not include any professional figure (e.g., psychologists) managing the interaction. There is just a facilitator (here Serena (SER)), who is in charge of checking if participants address each other with kindness. Serena (SER) has endured cancer as well.

On that day, Maura (MAU) rejoined the group after a long time. Maura is therefore informing the members of her health conditions. At this point of the conversation, she is telling about her hair loss, which she regards as problematic and distressful.

Session aim: we are interested in exploring which verbal (but, if need be, also non-verbal) practices participants deploy to support each other.



01 MAU: [l' U L T I M A V O L T A : : :]
last ti::me

02 (0.2)

03 MAU: avendo fat[to ci]nque radio m:assacranti, che secondo me mi hanno he=
due to the five aggressive radiation treatments I had, which in my opinion he

04 EBE: [e h.]
eh.

05 MAU: =f'mehnte tir#atof °una bella legnata,°# .h (0.7) °mi son venuti via
really took its toll on me .h ((the hair)) fell

06 **tutti.°<mi son venuti ^via una parte qua, sotto la doc↑cia, (0.4)**
off. one part fell off here in the shower,

07 pia: ^((joins fingers and moves hands up and
down))

08 che sem~bravo:~ l'ultima dei <moica:↑ni,> e fphoih dho↑po c'avevo
which made me look like the last of the mohicans and then later

09 **qua:f °i° capelli, e >ho detto< (°beh non sto come una p^a-°) .h**
my hair was here and I said (well I don't want to look cr-) .h

10 ser: ^((smiles))

11 (0.4)//((SER keeps smiling and leans slightly back))

12 MAU: c'è g[ente che lo FA: °tu°tto] oppure non lo s[o]
there are people who shave their head off or I don't know

13 SER: [^↑ h u: p p e : h e h]
huppè: h e h
^((mimics the act of smoothing the hair back with a smiley
face))

14 (?): [^ .hh]

15 pia: ^((inclines the head
and closes eyes while making a sympathetic face expression))

16 MAU: ditemi ^vo:i
you tell me

17 pia: ^((shakes head))

18 (.)

19 PIA: °^non s[i- ci si:,°]
doesn't one- one,
^((mimics head shaving))

20 MAU: [io non lo-] io ho detto °io [mi rado tutta°]
I didn't- I said I shave my head off

21 PIA: [^°ci si- si ra][de tutta.°]
one does- one does shave it off
^((mimics head shaving))

22 EBE: [a secom[a di]=
according to

23 SER: [(eh)=
eh

24 EBE: =t u- come t i senti]
you- how you feel about it

25 SER: =fatto ↑be:ne come ti se]nti ↑t[u <maura.> come:: eh he][:h]
you did the right thing as you feel about it Maura a::s eh he:h

26 EBE: [come ti senti meglio tu sai?]
as it makes you feel at ease you know?

27 MAU: [PERÒ] A
but

28 STO GI:R↑O:, (0.3) mi è rimasta qua.
this time I haven't made peace with it.

29 (0.6)

30 MAU: .h perché la qui=#°eh° lə:#- l'operazione che ho fatto il dodici
31 **.h because the fif- eh thə:- the surgery I had on the twelfth**
giugno >dell'anno< <scorso:,> (0.4) qua non li <avevo,> solo dietro,
32 **June last year I had none here, just in the back,**
però li avevo davanti non SO forse perché ero °un° po' <intontita>=io
33 **but I had it in the front I don't know perhaps because I was a bit dazed**
non mi vedevo die:tro ho detto vabbè:
I couldn't see myself from behind and I said well okay
34 (.)
35 SER: ^°eh°
eh
^((nods))

36 MAU: .h però: la gente si girava mi >diceva< °beh ma 'scolta maura
37 **.h but people turned and told me well but listen Maura**
ma=#m:#h# ma vatti bene a sistemarli dico ma< 'desso mi vado poi a
38 **but=m:#h but go get it fixed properly but now I mean I'll go**
sistemare se mi va° ^h [io gli risponde]vo eh
have it fixed then if I want .h I rebutted them eh

39 ser: ^ ((nods))
40 PIA: [^ hh - hh - hh]
^((nods))

41 PIA: °°c[ehr[to °°]
sure

42 SER: °°c[er-[sì (ma)°°] è giusto.]
sur- yes but that's right

43 EBE: [cer[t o]
sure

44 MAU: [SE HO FA]TTO delle (mh)]
if I did some (mh)

45 (0.4)

46 PIA: °°eh beh [certo°°]
eh well sure

47 SER: [°eh° scus]a eh; ((shakes head))
eh excuse me eh

48 (0.4)

49 SER: certo punto [(e:h) cioè] [^e h]
at a certain point (e:h) I mean eh
^((nods))

50 PIA: [c'è poco da sistemare]
there's little to fix

51 LAU: [sì a me]no che ↑uno
yes unless one

52 [(bada anche) ai fatti su]oi ([])]
(also minds) one own's business ()

53 PIA: [(che d i s c o r s o)]
nonsense

54 MAU: [(<M A I.> M A I : : :)]
never. neve:::r