

Research Design & Analysis IPA Assignment transcript 2015

I = interviewer; P = Participant (Jane)
(names, details and context changed to protect anonymity)

Emergent themes	Transcript	Exploratory comments/identification of potential themes
	I: Just as an introduction, would you like to tell me how you came about going to the cancer genetic service P: It started off with my cousin it did, umm, her mother died of cancer, and my mother, but her mother had given blood, for like, future genetic testing or whatever, and then it must have been about, it was four years later, that they got in touch with my cousin, and that's how the ball started rolling there, because umm, (Pause) she wanted to see my cousin and then we met up with her, I think it was [genetic counsellor]. We met up with [genetic counsellor], and then she asked me then if I would go for screening, but my sister had already set up with her GP, so we just all sort of connected up then, but ahh,	

(pause) I think my cousin at first, she didn't wana know, but yeh, and that was my first reaction as well, you know, what do I wana know for!

I: Yeh

P: But after I sat down and thought about it, it's the obvious thing to do really aint it, d'you know what I mean. Like prevention is better than cure isn't it. You know, just trying to help yourself, so umm, (pause) we went along then, for the blood tests, me and my sister, umm, and then, found out I think it was in May, that we both carry the gene, so my cousins had her first blood test, and I think she's got her second one again then in October. So wait and see if she's got it..yeh.

I: And how do you feel you coped when waiting for your test results?

P: well, you went in and you were there for about an hour, two hours, and then, I think it was a couple of weeks later then, then you went in for your blood tests. And then four weeks later again then, you went in for your second blood test, and that just felt like it was a bit too long a gap, you know, I just prefer to go in, and like why couldn't they tell you from the first blood test, why have the second one, you know what I mean?.

I: So can you tell me a little about how did you felt whilst waiting during that time?

	P: I think I would prefer it to be over and done within a month, instead of, this went on for..when was it, (pause) it was before Easter , and then I found out in May that I was carrying the gene, I mean I felt it was a..ongoing, and it was like, oh god, no more counselling or whatever, because where pretty aware of what was what you know, and I just felt that, I just knew that I had it anyway, you know, I just felt that, I mean my mum had it and my auntie had it you know, so umm.. I: So you said you felt like you already had the gene before you had your test results – so how did that make you feel? P: Umm, I was pretty good actually, I was waiting for like ah, being a bit stressed out, or tearful or whatever, but no, umm, I	
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was fine, and my sister, you know I think we coped too well perhaps you know, but no, ah, I felt I coped alright with it.

I: OK great. And can you tell me how you feel now, having had your test result?

P: Yeh, I mean I've always been aware of maybe having the gene, but now I feel like umm, any little problem now um, you get referred straight away, I mean, you don't feel like you're wasting the doctors time, you know, umm, I think I feel like I'll be better looked after, (pause), if you know what I mean, you know? I mean, I knew [the test] had to be done, you know, I thought it would be selfish if I didn't, and then I developed a lump, you know, I could kick myself then, you know? I mean I've got children as well, you know, and I just

thought it was selfish, and that would help other people you know, maybe my children or their children.

I: Yeh, I mean you mention about your children then, was that a specific worry that you had?

P: Yeh, yeh I think it was really, and I just thought that it would be just selfish of me not to know, you know, where as I could have done something about it earlier really, but yeh, um..I mean I feel more in control now, than if I didn't know, d'you know what I mean, well if I do get it, or I am likely to get it, at least i'm doing things now to prevent it, you know.

I: So you feel you can do something about your risk now?

	P: Yeh, cos um, we are waiting now to have um, screening and blood tests, and then we're having our ovaries out, which reduces your risk, and I mean, i've had children, and I don't want anymore anyway, you know, so you know. I: How are you finding the waiting for your surgery? P: Um, actually the consultant when I seen him said you tell me when you want it done, we wanted to have it done in September because, um, like I said now, im going away now in 2 weeks time, and I didn't want to have any type of surgery before or after, and also my sister is going away for two weeks in August, so we just said September, you know, there's nothing going on, and um, he said he'll take us both in together, and do the operation.	
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I: So do you feel about the two of you going through it together?

P: Yeh, that was a big fear of mine really actually, I was dreading if my sister had it and I didn't, that was the biggest fear I had, you know, I was worrying if she had it and I didn't, and I was like oh my god, and that was her fear as well, we're both selfish, we were just glad that we both had it (laughing). You know, I did say that, I said, thank god for that! (Still laughing). No, we laugh about it actually, I mean we've always been close, but I think were a lot closer now as well, and I think that you know, even before that like, I always used to say like to my husband about her, and she did to her husband, oh never mind when we retire, we might not reach that age! You know, so live life for today, which is what we have been really, you know, not thinking to far ahead

I: So when you were waiting for your test result, did you talk much to your sister about it?

P: Yeh all the time

I: Do you think that is something that helped you cope?

P: Yeh, because my sister is..i'm positive, but my sister is very positive, you know, and she said, it is selfish if you don't do anything, if you just turn your back on it and not know, and it was the not knowing, even though me and my sister did feel like we knew that we had it, you know, so it wasn't that a big shock, you know, it was still upsetting, because it confirms what you knew. And then..we have a laugh now, you know, and like we talk about it, and like before, we couldn't say the

	word cancer, you know, it would scare you, you know, and as I said, you know, its so unfortunate that my mother and my auntie never had this, you know. I: You mention then about you talking to your husband, and your sister talking to her husband, do you think that was helpful when you were waiting? P: Yeh, I mean they were supportive, in all doom and gloom, you know, and we had a laugh about things, yeh it was alright I: Yeh I mean again, you mention about talking to your sister, and your husband, was there any other ways that you dealt with any worries that you had?	
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I: (Laughs) Yeh, but like you said, at least you're doing something about it, you've done something about it now.

P: Yeh, and then you be having your mammograms every year, so ah, we are gonna see about just, not 100% see about having mastectomy and reconstruction, because there was a programme on TV....dunno whether you seen it, there was a young girl, 23. She didn't have her ovaries removed, because she was young, and she wanted children, but no she was fine, you know, and it didn't scare you at all to watch it, you know, she woke up, and she had a reconstruction, and she was over the moon with it, and she did ask them to make them slightly bigger, you know [laugh].

I: and when you weren't with your sister, for instance in work or something, was there anything you did not to worry, or to try and not think about it?

P: I didn't really think that much about it, you know, um, because I just felt, well i've got it, and they are just gonna confirm it, you know, and I said why worry now, if we have got it, we've had it all these years, you know, you're born with it.

P: I think it was the waiting, (pause) it wasn't stressful, but more like oh come on, get it over and done with now in it, you know, you had your first blood test, and then a month later you went for your second, but why couldn't they take it from your first? D' you know what I mean, because I had a feeling, I dunno why, I had a feeling they knew from your first blood

	test, but whether or not their trying to slowly ease you in to it, d'you know what I mean I: But you felt it was too long, that time P: I just felt it was too long, or it's just lets get it over and done with now aint it, you know instead of the wait, it was the waiting it was, you know, it didn't sort of, it would be easier if it was a shorter period [interview comes to an end and participant is thanked].	
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