

The impact of chaplaincy care on hospitalized patients

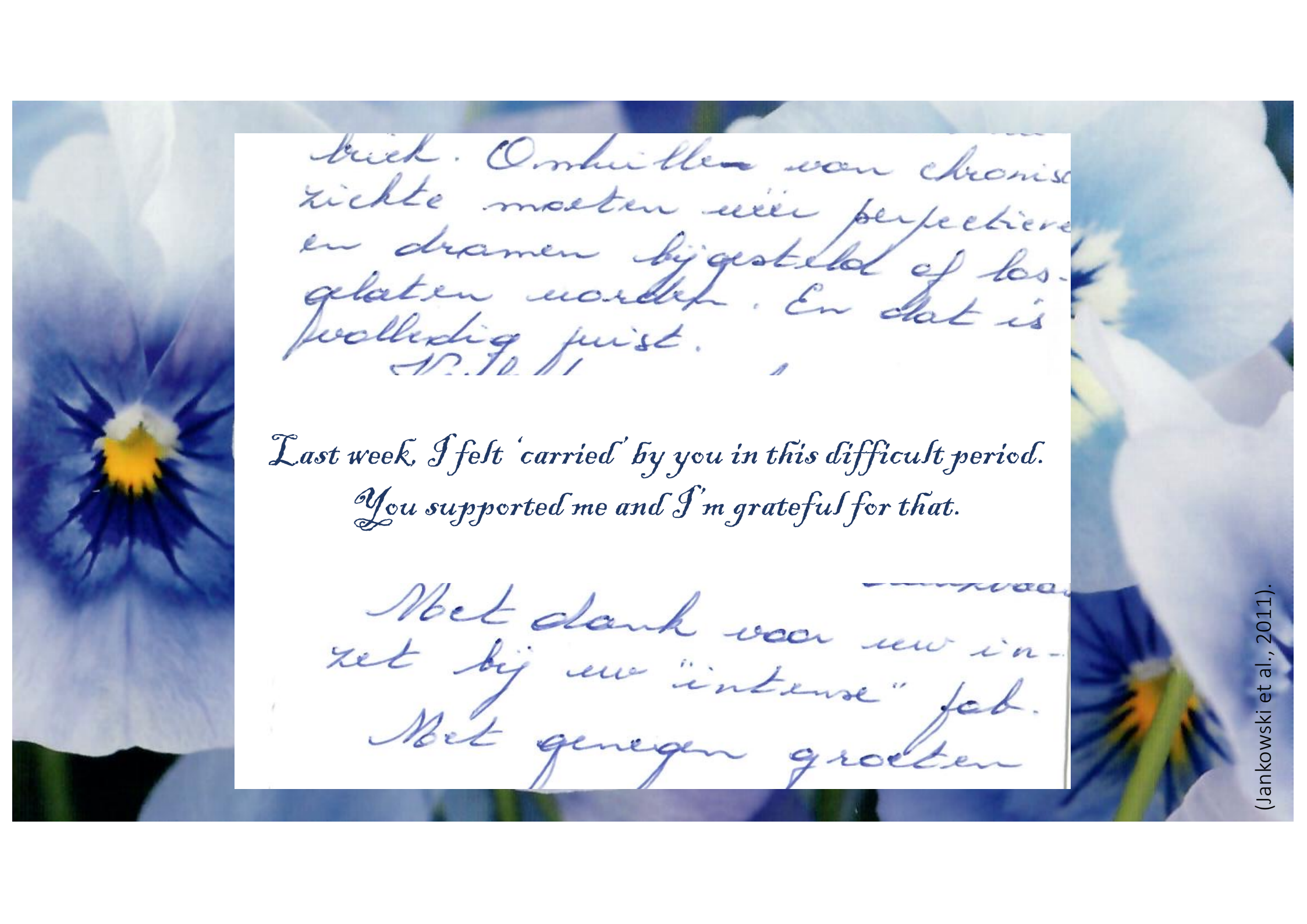
A quasi-experimental study to assess outcomes of healthcare chaplaincy

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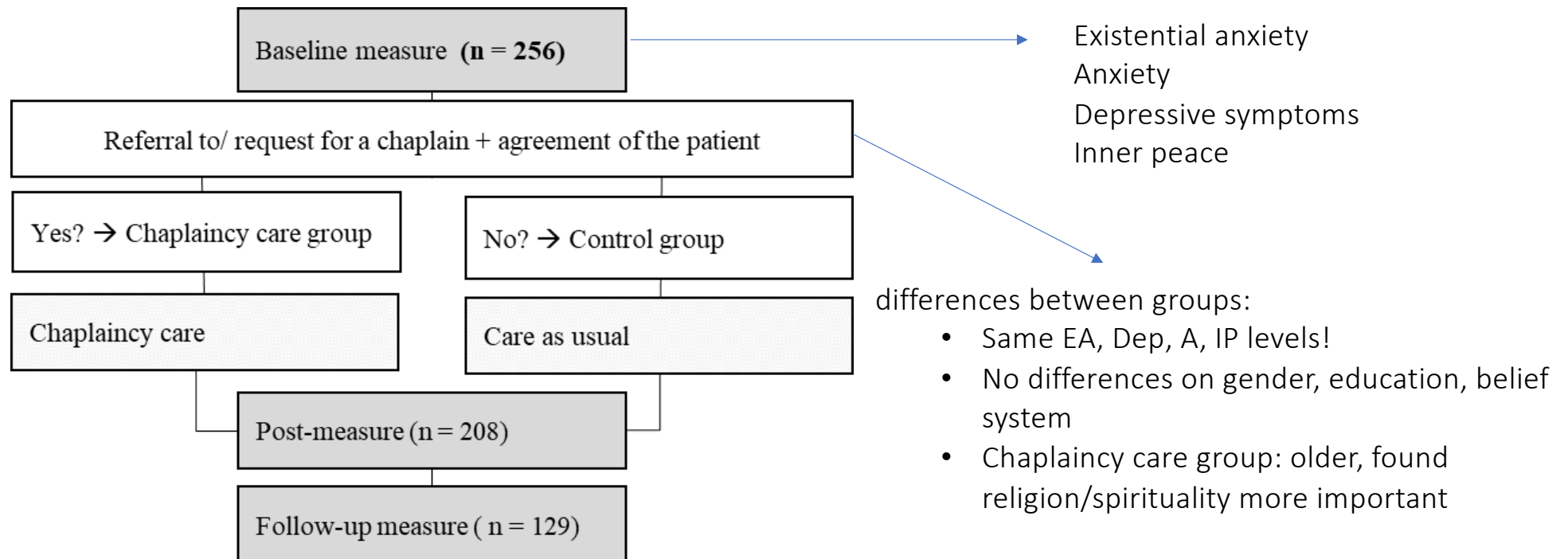
boek. Omhullen van chronisch
zichte moeten een perfectiere
en drama bijgesteld of los-
gelaten worden. En dat is
volledig juist.

*Last week, I felt 'carried' by you in this difficult period.
You supported me and I'm grateful for that.*

*Met dank voor uw in-
zet bij uw "intense" feb.
Met genegen groeten*

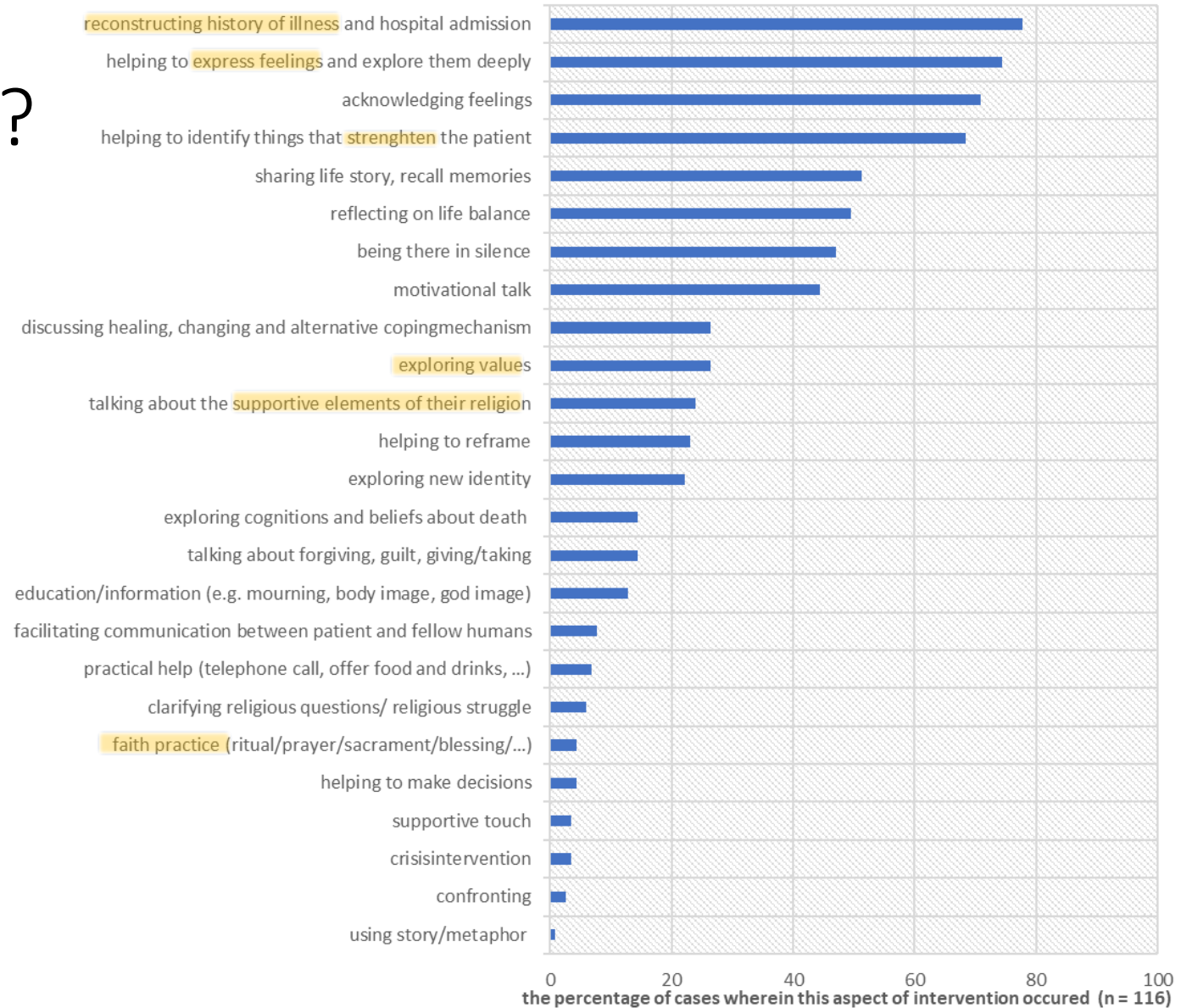
Aim and method

- aimed to gain insight into the potential impact of a single conversation with a chaplain



Chaplaincy care?



- by 8 chaplains
- Individual contact



Results

Main effect of time: more inner peace throughout time ($F(2, 266.295) = 6.165, p < .01$).

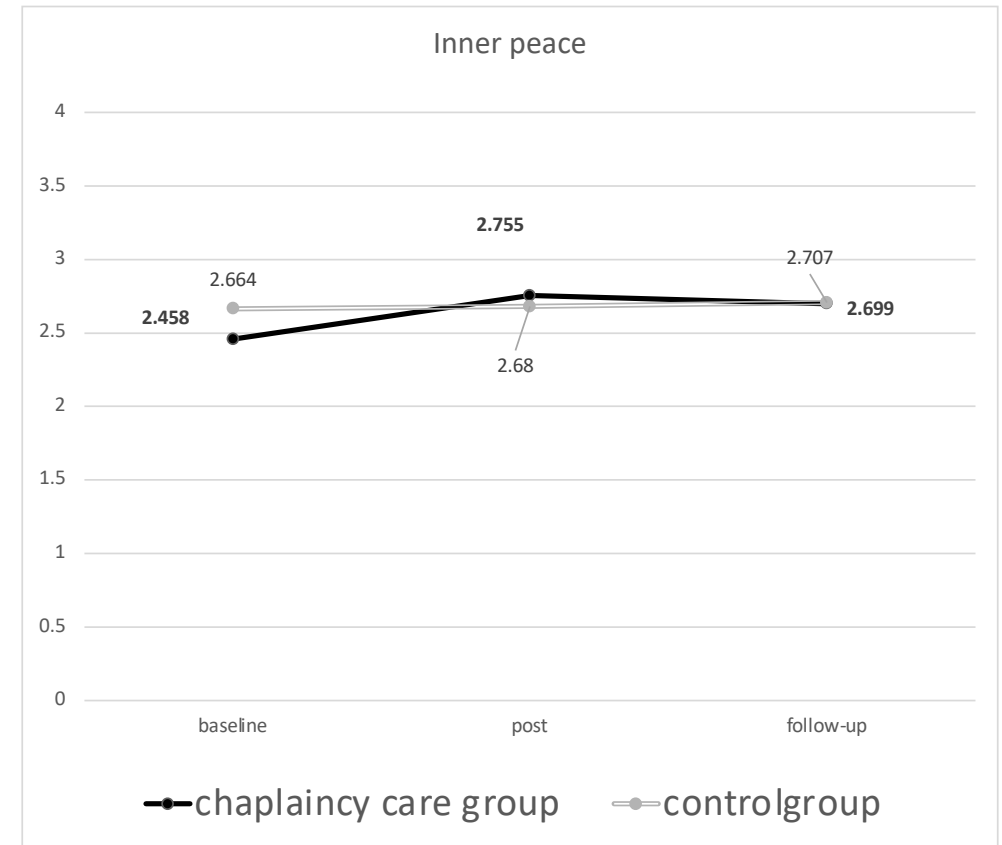
- **Analysis:** multilevel modelling

VARIABLE (potential range)		Estimated marginal mean \pm SE					
		BASELINE		POST		FOLLOW-UP	
Existential Anxiety (1-5)	Control	2.025	± 0.118	2.044	± 0.119	2.038	± 0.122
	Chaplaincy care	1.938	± 0.108	1.871	± 0.111	1.938	± 0.115
Inner Peace  (0-4)	Control	2.664	± 0.136	2.680	± 0.141	2.707	± 0.148
	Chaplaincy care	2.458	± 0.145	2.755	± 0.147	2.699	± 0.153
Anxiety  (0-3)	Control	1.024	± 0.098	0.935	± 0.101	0.917	± 0.105
	Chaplaincy care	1.012	± 0.106	0.910	± 0.107	0.895	± 0.111
Depressive symptoms (0-3)	Control	0.911	± 0.093	0.928	± 0.097	0.973	± 0.101
	Chaplaincy care	0.952	± 0.101	0.891	± 0.102	0.902	± 0.107

Main effect of time: Anxiety lowers throughout time ($F(2, 258.439) = 6.603, p < .01$)

Results

- No significant group by time interaction effect for EA, A and Dep
- participants that got an intervention from the chaplain demonstrated significantly **greater improvement for inner peace at post-test** than the control condition ($F(2, 266.595) = 4.47, p < .05$).
- the potential intervention-effect did not depend on control variables like the religion/worldview the patient had



Discussion

- possible reasons for the lack of change in A, D and EA?
 - absence of knowledge concerning the necessary 'dosage' of chaplaincy care
 - heterogeneity of the interventions used in chaplaincy care
 - less sensitive to change
 - maybe chaplaincy care does not change A, D and EA
- further, complementary research needed

Thank you!

Questions? eva.buelens@kuleuven.be, updates about publication on research gate

References

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