

University of Groningen

## The role of spousal supportive behaviors in couples' adaptation to colorectal cancer

Dagan, Meirav

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## Stellingen

- (1) Failing to support your partner during illness will not be hold against you as long as you have given support in the past (Ch. 2)
- (2) Cancer patients should be motivated to continue their role as supportive partners even in the midst of recovering from their illness (this thesis).
- (3) If you are high in control you do not benefit from your partner's support (Ch. 3).
- (4) Patients are not affected by spousal criticism or antagonism, only partners low in control are (Ch. 3).
- (5) The role differences between patients and partners starts already in the ability to share concerns regarding cancer.
- (6) When your partner discloses his or her concerns it is better to show understanding and to validate them than just showing your partner that you care (Ch. 4).
- (7) Response rates presented should be interpreted with caution as they often suggest a more favorable couples' response than warranted (Ch. 6 and 5).
- (8) A promising PhD candidate smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress, and grows brave by reflection / reviewers' feedback (adapted quote by Thomas Paine).
- (9) "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou
- (10) Considering the fact that women are the majority in academia but a minority among full professors, positive discrimination should be the accepted recruitment policy.