

Table 1. Descriptive statistics and characteristics of the physicians and patients.

	Physicians N=24		Patients N=134	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Women	13	54.2%	66	50%
Attended CST	6	25%		
<i>Cancer diagnosis</i>				
Intestinal			30	22.4%
Breast			19	14.2%
Lung			14	10.4%
Prostate			3	2.2%
Other			61	45.5%
Missing			7	5.2%
	Mean	S.D. (range)	Mean	S.D. (range)
Age	39.0	8.8 (28-61)	59.7	13.0(27-86)
Experience in years	6.6	8.1 (0-29)		
Overall Defensive Functioning	4.2	0.6 (2.9-5.7)		
Number of defence mechanisms	15.8	6.7 (4-35)		
Immature defences	8.5	4.9 (0-28)		
Intermediate defences	6.6	3.0 (1-14)		
Mature defences	0.7	1.1 (0-6)		
Stress	3.1	2.0 (0-8.4)		
Sadness			23.4	17 (0-65)
Anxiety			35.6	12.4 (20-74)
	Physicians N=16		Patients N=85	
	Mean	S.D. (range)	Mean	S.D. (range)
Alexithymia, TAS-Total	39.2	10.2 (24-56)	50.8	13.3 (28-75)
Alexithymia, DIF	12.7	3.8 (7-20)	15.8	6.5 (7-30)
Alexithymia, DDF	11.1	3.8 (5-17)	13.8	4.2 (6-23)
Alexithymia, EOT	15.4	4.2 (8-22)	21.2	6.0 (10-37)

Abbreviations: CST, Communication Skills Training; DIF, difficulty identifying feelings;

DDF, difficulty describing feelings to others; EOT, externally oriented thoughts.

Table 2. First series of linear mixed effect models (only one independent variable per model), relations between physician and patient variables and physicians' defences, adjusted for patient age and gender.

		Physician Alexithymia ¹	Physician DIF ¹	Physician EOT ¹	Physician stress ²	Patient sadness ²	Patient anxiety ²
Overall	β	-0.02 [□]	-0.05 [□]	-0.04*			
Defensive	<i>p</i>	.005	.002	.036	ns	ns	ns
Functioning	confounders	ns	ns	ns			
Number of defences	β		0.62*		1.12 [□]	0.09 [□]	0.13 [□]
	<i>p</i>	ns	.023	ns	.000	.009	.006
	confounders		ns		ns	ns	ns
Mature defences	β						0.02 [□]
	<i>p</i>	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	.009
	confounders						ns
Immature defences	β		0.55 [□]		0.67 [□]	0.06 [□]	
	<i>p</i>	ns	.007	ns	.003	.008	ns
	confounders		ns		ns	ns	

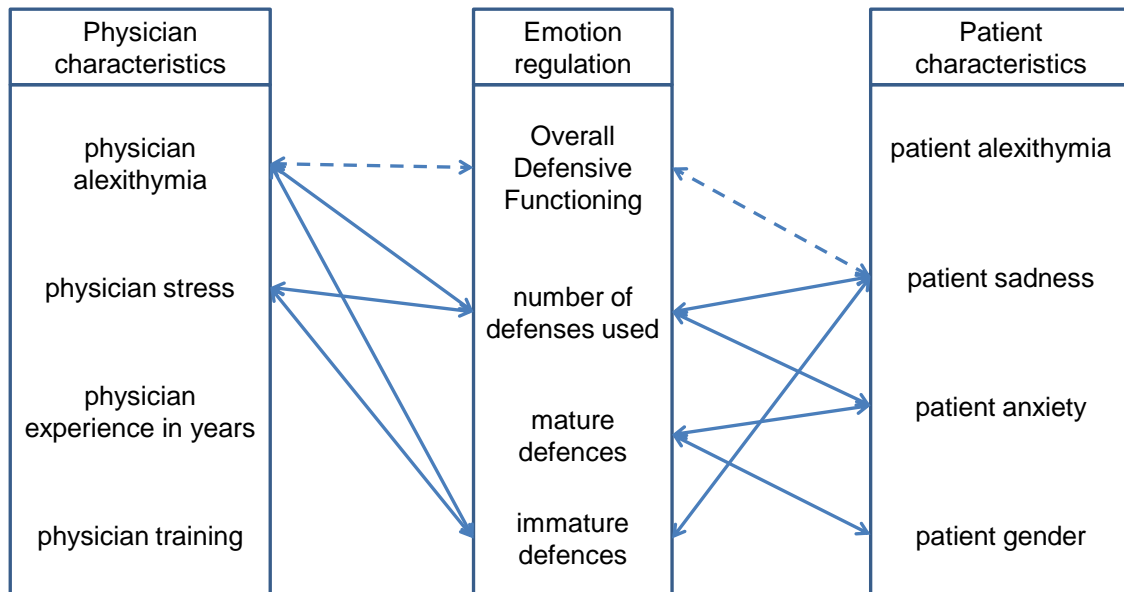
Abbreviations: DIF, Difficulty identifying feelings; EOT, Externally Oriented Thinking; ns, nonsignificant; * $p < .05$, [□] $p < .01$; ¹analyses on subsample (n=85), ²analyses on whole sample (n=134). Confounders are the patient age and gender.

Table 3. Second series of linear mixed effect models (all presented independent variables together in each model), relation between physician and patient variables and physicians' defences, adjusted for patient age and gender.

		Physician DIF	Physician stress	Patient sadness	Patient anxiety	Patient age and gender
Number of defences	β	0.55	1.10 [□]	0.10*	-0.04	ns
	<i>p</i>	.057	.001	.017	.461	
Immature defences	β	0.48*	0.60*	0.08 [□]	ns	ns
	<i>p</i>	.020	.014	.008		

Abbreviations: DIF, Difficulty identifying feelings; ns, nonsignificant; * $p < .05$, [□] $p < .01$. All analyses were done on the subsample (n=85).

Figure 1: relationships between the physicians' and patients' characteristics and the physicians' emotion regulation



←-----→ Negative relation
←-----→ Positive relation