

Figure 2 suppl. Often patients did not consider symptoms as serious enough to need medical attention immediately.

"I started feeling chest pain but I didn't think much of it because I didn't know what it was or what could be causing it"

62, male, MI, PCI < 1 month, Romania

Figure 3 suppl. The degree of awareness increased if patients had a family member that was engaged with them.

"I even told my son about the symptoms and he begged me to go see a doctor, but I was being negligent and never went."

51 y, male ,MI, Turkey

Figure 4 suppl. The diagnosis was perceived by patients as a time of worry and patients reported the need to be reassured.


"it was frustrating and you know when people have heart pain, I was scared I wouldn't be able to be saved in time"

59 y, female, Diabetes, China

"Total frustration as up to now nobody explained to me why this happened"

60 y, male, MI, Brazil

Figure 5 suppl. The main advices patients received were related to lifestyle, but some patients wished to discuss deeper how to apply these lifestyle changes.



"I was told to spend more time outside, take walks and do a healthy workout-something I am completely unable to do!"
66 y, female, LVD, Russia

Figure 6 suppl. Patients' reports show the need to receive more time to talk with the doctors during the visits.

"A little bit afraid to speak, first is because there are many people in the queue, so need to hurry and leave, second is afraid doctor will find me nagging."

60 y, male, Diabetes, China

"The doctor could spend more time and perform more tests. But they don't do that, it's like they're just trying to get you out of there."

62y, female, MI & Diabetes, Turkey

"If it was like those old family doctors it would be much better. They were closer to patients. Now, you go to a [cardiologist], they see you, your test results then bye, see you in 6 months"

57 y , male MI & Diabetes, Brazil

Figure 7 suppl. Reported patient knowledge of treatments is minimal.

"I don't know much about it, the doctor is the one who studied medicine, not me."

55, male, Diabetes, Turkey

Figure 8 suppl. Lifestyle changes were pointed out to have brought negative emotional impact in their life by the majority of patients.

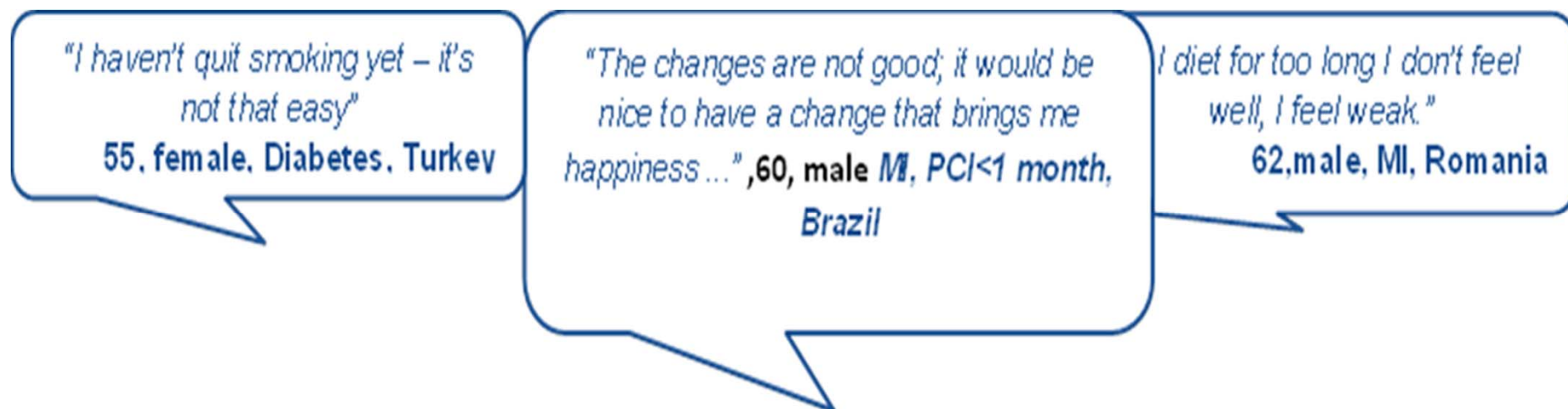


Figure 9 suppl. Patients report frustration due to reduced activity/restricted lifestyle and fears of death.



Figure 10 suppl. The overall emotional burden of the disease does not seem to alleviate over time.

"I start feeling severe pain in my chest and heart, I can hardly breathe, and my left arm becomes cold and numb."

62, female, Diabetes, Russia, <1 year

"We are always worried about another infarction, there is always that worry. The tests results can bring some reassurance but the worry never goes away."

55, male, MI, Brazil, 1-5 years

"It's a depressing disease, because I used to be a very active and strong man, I used to be sporty in my youth. Now I feel vulnerable. I'm constantly dependent on other people."

64. male. MI. Romania. >5