

We need to develop a more balanced and sophisticated approach to the communication of risk, one that takes patients' fears and concerns more seriously. The goal really is balance and perspective, so that the patient can make a decision in keeping with their values and priorities. This requires presenting a multidimensional picture. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to communicating about risk.

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Conflict of interest: none declared

This article is the second in a series on risk. See also 'Perceptions of risk – a legal perspective' by J. McPhee in Vol. 25 No. 5, October 2002.

Patient support organisation

Asthma Australia

Asthma Australia is an association of all the Asthma Foundations throughout Australia. Asthma Australia aims to eliminate asthma as a major cause of ill health and disruption within the community. The Asthma Foundations provide asthma education, information, research, community advocacy and support to people with asthma and their carers.

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