Index

account  
absent answer, 78, 177  
agency, 13–21  
dispreferred action, 28  
‘I don’t remember’, 78, 140, 150  
see also doctor; response
accountability  
to child, 13–14, 80, 133, 187  
intentionality, 19  
participation, 13–21  
responsibility, 14–15, 18  
see also agency; doctor; participation
adolescent see child; patient; young person
agency  
accountability, 13–14  
child’s, 1, 5, 17, 20, 187  
and participation and responsibility, 1, 17, 20, 187  
patient-initiated course of action, 13–14, 46, 76–79, 88–89  
reduction to action, 15, 18, 20  
theory, 18  
see also childhood construction
Ahearn, Laura M., 6, 18, 187  
alignment, 92, 99, 124, 146, 177, 182, 186–187
Alldred, Pam, 17
amputation see surgery
anger  
and fury, 1, 63, 69, 132, 167  
outburst, 3, 9, 130, 132–133, 151
yelling/screaming, 62, 105, 132–133, 167  
see also emotion
Anna (patient), 40, 57, 60, 62–65, 80, 89–93, 107, 129–133, 151–152, 190
answer, 76–77  
absence, 13–14, 75  
certain vs. uncertain, 79–80, 82, 87, 100–101  
contingent answer, 74, 79–82, 86–87, 98, 100  
doctor withholding, 5, 90–93  
insufficient, 13, 75, 77–79, 82–86, 89–90, 149–150, 182  
vs. non-answer response, 78–79, 137–151, 174, 183  
see also asymmetry of question and answer; response
answer pursuit by patient, 13, 46, 75, 77, 81, 137–152, 186–187
anthropology, 27  
childhood, 1, 16–20, 72, 186–187  
future and time, 25–26, 50, 72  
hope, 8, 25–26, 185–186  
ilness trajectory, 43–44  
insider/outsider, 31, 33, 48  
medical, 6  
see also culture; methodology
authority  
avoidance of challenge to medical, 55–56, 64, 75–77, 127, 133, 149–152, 169, 186
medical, 54–55, 88, 129–130, 133–152, 182
parental, 4–5, 14–15, 20, 51, 54, 131, 165–166
parent invoking medical, 54, 64
patient circumventing parental, 54
questioning medical, 55
see also asymmetry; decision-making; disagreement

autotransplant, 134
Eli’s, 162–167
medical expertise, 22, 52–54, 71, 133
Robert’s questions, 133–152
Toni’s questions, 168–178
see also chemotherapy treatment; isolation; treatment

Aronsson, Karin, 16–17
aside see talking privately
asymmetry, 14, 29–30, 51, 72, 186
doctor and patient, 31, 88
good and bad news, 29, 184
parent and child, 132–133
teasing, 130–132, 151–152
see also authority; community; decision-making
asymmetry, of question and answer, 15, 77–79, 88, 186
see also conversation analysis; patient; questioning pressure

avoidance
answering, 45, 90–91, 98–99
child’s acquiescence in, 47
collaboration in, 75–76
display of negative emotion 9, 69, 71, 103
implicit and explicit communication, 44–47
negative aspect of cancer, 4, 45, 47, 75, 149, 178, 181, 185
negotiation of, 9, 100, 181
silence, 6, 183
talk about avoidance, 45–46
talk about cancer, 2, 4–5, 7, 10, 42, 44–45, 75, 98
talk about death, 45
talk about uncertainty, 9–10, 23, 31, 55, 74–75, 94, 156, 184–185

see also cancer, avoidance of the word; collusion; communication regulation

Austin, John Langshaw, 78

bad news see news

Barbarin, Oscar A., 10–11, 51
Basso, Keith H., 5–6
Bauman, Richard, 5–6, 17
Beach, Wayne A., 6, 15, 25, 28–31, 43, 185
Bearison, David J., 42, 50–51
bilingualism see Catalonia

Briggs, Jean L., 43
Byrne, Angela, 24, 26, 185
Byrne, Patrick, 77
cancer
Ewing’s sarcoma, 154–159
Hodgkin’s disease, 60, 65, 168–169
invisibility of progress of, 25, 56, 154
‘living one day at a time’, 50
pediatric, 2–3, 53
pediatric advocacy groups, 37–38
public representation, 36–38
in Spain, 2, 35–38
types of pediatric, 39–40
Wilms’ tumor (kidney), 163–167
see also identity; illness; osteosarcoma

cancer, avoidance of word, 35–36, 98, 106–108, 110, 126–128
cancer trajectory, 43–44
and communication strategy, 3, 9–11, 30–31, 178, 184–185
longitudinal analysis of, 31, 43–44
period, 23–25
and stage of illness, 10
summary of individual patient’s, 189–192
and uncertainty, 23, 184
variability, 3, 9–10, 12–13, 21–24, 184
see also illness; methodology
caring see community
Catalonia, 33–34
  bilingualism in the Catalan Health Service, 34
cancer public representation, 36–38
Catalan/Spanish bilingualism, 34, 40
family bilingualism, 40, 189–192
pediatric cancer public education campaign, 36–38
  see also Spain
Catalonia Hospital see hospital
‘cat-and-mouse’ negotiation, 5, 9, 46, 133–152, 182
  see also answer, response
Cederborg, Ann-Christin, 16–17
certainty, 3
  see also uncertainty
chemotherapy session, 51–54
  asking information about remaining, 81–84, 137–152, 168–178
guessing about start and end of a specific, 55–56, 72
  see also hospitalization; local under uncertainty; routinization
chemotherapy treatment
  end, 154–155, 158
drugs, 53, 73n  see also cisplatin
  as implicit cancer diagnosis news, 109
  as implicit terminal illness prognosis
    news, 162
    palliative, 162
parent’s and patient’s knowledge of, 2, 22, 52–54
  protocol (treatment protocol chart), 53
  side effect, 22–25, 52–60, 63–64, 91, 155
  see also autotransplant; overall under uncertainty
Chesler, Mark A., 7, 10–11, 51
child
  ability to contribute to medical interaction, 4, 16
  ‘as-not’ perspective, 16
decision-making exclusion, 15, 20–21
  as ‘developing’ and vulnerable, 12–13, 20, 51, 72, 151, 181
  initiated course of action 13–14, 89
  involvement vs. responsibility, 13–14, 18–21, 187
  limited participation, 15–18
    as marginal actor, 1, 16, 186–187
    medical expertise, 4, 22, 52, 71, 187
    own view of childhood, 16, 18, 187
    participation, 3–6, 13–21
    as social actor, 5, 16–18, 20, 187
    vs. young person, 39
  see also agency; identity; participation; patient; pediatric
childhood cancer see child; cancer;
  osteosarcoma; patient; treatment
chronic illness see illness
cisplatin, 53, 73n, 83, 141–145, 149
Clayman, Stephen E., 6, 28–29, 43, 45–46, 78, 82, 175
Cohen, Marsha, 10, 21–22, 50, 72
collusion
  optimistic, 26, 154, 178–179
  withholding, 44–47
  see also death; deception
communication
  communicative economy, 5, 181
  constitutive role, 4, 6–7, 18–19, 30, 100, 183–185
dyadic vs. triadic, 15
language, 6, 18, 27
pediatric cancer, 3–4, 7, 11–13
  situated in context, 3, 5–7, 26–29, 43–44, 88, 178
  see also emotion; news
communication regulation, cancer
  as barrier to child’s participation, 149, 152
  child not challenging, 186
to contain and deal with pervasive uncertainty, 3, 10
deadth, 44–45  see death
factors influencing parent’s, 11
information compartmentalization, 44, 50
not cohesive or consistent, 3, 7
not limited to information, 3, 7
not limited to telling and not telling, 3
post-treatment, 9–10
  practices in Spain, 7–9, 34–38
Index

pre-treatment, 106–108
protecting child see protection
relapse, 154
remission, 154
treatment, 11
see also disclosure; emotion regulation;
implicitness
communication strategy, cancer
contradictory, 3, 7–9, 34–36, 48,
127–128, 180, 183
deception, 6–9, 102, 106–107, 110–111,
127, 154, 178–179, 184
diagnosis, 3–4
emotion regulation, 3, 7, 9–11, 26, 30,
49, 67–71, 102–103, 108, 127, 130,
154, 156, 181
official and planned complete non-
disclosure, 9, 102, 106–107, 111, 127,
154, 182–184
official and planned partial disclosure, 9,
103, 110–111, 127, 182–184
unplanned and improvised partial
disclosure, 9, 99–100, 102, 107–108,
110, 127
unofficial leakage and gathering of
information, 9, 52–53, 102, 107, 110,
127, 182–183
see also talking privately
community
being together, 60–67
daily life at hospital, 65–66
insider/outsider, 31, 33, 48
mutual caring and support, 61–67
obligation of proximity, 61–63
permanent vs. temporary, 61
return to hospital after death, 159
visiting, 64–67
see also disagreement; friendship;
hospital; joking; play; teasing
competence
child’s, in community and family, 19
child’s, in treatment discussion, 3–4
of individual not meeting adulthood
ideal, 17–18
sociocultural perception of child’s,
16–17, 187
see also agency; child; childhood
construction; participation
concealment see avoidance; collusion;
evasion; mutual pretense
conspiracy of talk, 5–6
context, multiple see Catalonia; culture;
hospital; methodology
contingent answer, 74, 79–83, 86–87,
98, 100
contingent question, 74, 79, 86–87, 100
contingent response, 82–83, 174–176
control see authority; conversation analysis;
normalcy
conversation analysis, 27
adjacency pair, 28, 88–89
chaining rule, 88
communication as action, 6
diachronic analysis, 28
dialogue with anthropology, 28–29
progressivity, 15, 30, 76–78, 88–89, 100
recipient design, 14, 17, 29
repair, 137
see also interaction; orientation;
sequential organization of talk
Conversi, Daniele, 34
Coupland, Nicholas, 45
crying
after finding out diagnosis, 1, 105
avoidance, to protect child, 71–72
doctor’s avoidance in medical
interaction, 71
Eli, missing her mother, 164
Jesus Christ, lack of, at crucifixion, 166
parent and child, avoidance in front of
each other, 9, 71, 102, 105, 108
Pedro’s, during treatment interview,
111–127, 181, 186
privately, among mothers, 70–72
rarity of, during treatment, 130
at start of cancer trajectory, 108
transcription conventions, 195–196
see also distress; emotion; non-verbal
culture (cultural), 27
agency, 18
cancer disclosure preferences, 7–9
cancer disclosure preferences in
Catalonia and Spain, 34–38, 48
childhood, 14–16 see also childhood
construction
culture (cultural) (cont’d)
cross-cultural and historical variation in
cancer communication, 7–9
doctor’s discouragement of crying, 71
and hope, 8
intentionality, morality and
personhood, 13
model of ‘child with cancer’, 38
not talking as alternative to talking,
4–5, 181
role of parent and child, 60
and talking, 4–6, 48, 181–183
young person vs. adolescent, 39
see also Catalonia; disclosure; Spain

Dani (patient), 66, 68–71, 103–109, 111,
127–128, 154, 159–161, 178–179,
183, 190
dead, 161–176
avoidance of talk about, 9, 30, 44–45
child’s acquisition of information, 12
child’s awareness, 10, 12–13
communication strategy 2, 9–10, 44–45,
Eli’s, 163–168
Felipe’s, 162–163
and friendship, 44
going home, 44, 166–167
‘good death’, 8
and hospital community, 161–163
and illness trajectory, 9, 23–24, 30, 154,
178, 184
and optimism, 2, 10, 23
optimistic collusion, 26, 154, 178–179
palliative care, 24
parent’s return to hospital, 159
preferences of information disclosure
in Spain, 35–36
religious reference to Jesus Christ, 163,
166, 178, 183
and uncertainty, 22, 24–25, 47, 153, 181
‘unpacking the gloss’, 30
see also mutual pretense; post-treatment
decision
Felipe, 162
non-disclosing countries, 8
and optimistic collusion, 178–179, 184

Robert, 106–107
vs. withholding, 6–8
see also deception under communication
strategy
decision-making
hierarchy, 51, 54–55, 64, 131, 152,
164–165, 186
responsibility, 20–21, 51, 187
see also asymmetry; authority
Degner, Lesley F., 12
delay see news
delicate, construction of something as, 77,
79, 93–94, 101, 134, 150, 169, 175,
181–182
see also implicitness; news
diagnosis
anxiety waiting for, 25, 56
change in self identity, 51
inference of, 103, 109, 129
information withheld, 10–11, 30, 38
‘noetic crisis’, 111
protection vs. information, 69–70,
104–105
second diagnosis, 24–25, 154, 159–161
in Spain, 34–36
testing, 103–105
treatment interview, 103–126
uncertainty associated with, 21, 24, 181
see also communication regulation;
communication strategy;
pre-treatment
disagreement
parent and child dispute, 49, 54, 62, 64,
93, 130, 132–133
parent tacit disagreement with doctor,
54–55, 64, 157–158, 164–166
see also authority; anger
disclosure
‘autonomy-control’, 8
availability of cancer therapy, 8
cancer diagnosis, 103–108
child information need, 11–13
critique of ‘one size fits all’, xv, 12–13
cross-cultural studies, 7–9
dichotomy, 7–9, 12–13
individual autonomy, 8
information-autonomy, 8
information-limiting, 9–11
Index

meta-narrative of social embeddedness, 8
parent preference of, 69
practices and preferences in Catalonia and Spain, 4, 7–9, 34–36
as process, 1, 7–11
temporal variation in individual preferences, 8
see also communication regulation; communication strategy; news

Dixon-Woods, Mary, 3, 11–13, 39, 51–52, 63, 68
doctor
avoidance of question-answer chain, 75–76, 90–93, 98–99
closing of medical visit, 92–100, 112, 115–116, 120–126, 147, 170, 177, 186
control of conversation, 30, 76–77, 88–93, 100

Duranti, Alessandro, 6, 13–14, 17–19, 78, 187
dying see death

Ehrenreich, Barbara, 25–26

emotion
anxiety about child eating, 63

crying, 9, 71, 102 see also crying
distress, 5, 10–11 see also distress
fear of cancer lurking inside body, 56, 154

numbing fear during relapse, 160
patient talking about his fear with doctor, 146–151

pervasive anxiety caused by variable uncertainties, 3, 10, 21, 184–185
positive, 68, 154, 181

question interpreted as evidence of patient worry, 134, 142, 146–151, 175

worry about infection, 58–60
worry increased by withheld information, 2, 106, 147–149

worry waiting for test result, 25, 155–158
see also anger
emotion, regulation of negative

doctor’s encouragement to, 71
downplay of fear see teasing; joking

fear of breakdown in front of child, 11

hiding emotion, 3, 67–71, 127

patient fear of discussing cancer, 105
to protect child from suffering see protection

Espinosa, Albert, 36–38

ethnography see anthropology; linguistic anthropology; methodology
evasion (evasive)
to avoid alarming patient, 79, 130

and ‘cat-and-mouse’ negotiation, 46
doctor avoidance of being perceived as, 74–76, 101, 145

doctor response, 5, 117–118, 126
formulating previous response as, 82–83

as interational achievement, 6, 29

patient interpretation as, 46, 75

untraceability of, in conversation, 45–46

see also avoidance; ‘cat-and-mouse’ negotiation

explicitness see implicitness
familiarity with doctor, 151
see also joking; teasing
father, 42
see also parent
Felipe (patient), 44, 47, 130, 154, 162–163, 178–179, 190
fieldwork, 38–42
see also methodology
food, 63–64
see also child; identity; normalcy; parent; role
Frankel, Richard, 6, 15, 29, 101n
friendship
hospitalization with friends, 57, 65–66
mothers’, 57, 68–70
patients’, 44, 64–67, 70, 151, 161, 163
romantic, 57, 131, 151
sadness at end of treatment, 65
see also community
future
accountability, 80
construction of, 26, 118–126
distant, avoidance of talk about, 9, 45, 55, 72, 76, 81, 100–101, 109–110, 152, 156, 178, 184
end of treatment, 153
expectation that child has, 12–13, 25, 181
focus on present moment, 50–52, 72, 181
illustration of, 118–126
immediate, 5, 22, 71–72, 109, 123, 129–130, 150
optimism and hope, 118, 126, 147–150, 185–186
pessimism, 47, 133, 169–170
theorization, 26
uncertainty, 4–5, 21–26, 50–51, 86, 94, 99, 100, 169
see also hope; optimism; time; uncertainty
Garro, Linda, 185
gaze, 97, 115–123, 125, 127, 139
gender
pediatric cancer patients, 40–41
pediatric cancer unit as woman’s world, 41–42, 48, 131
see also father; mother
gesture, 2, 4, 42, 116–117, 121–124, 135–138
Gibson, Faith, 11–12, 39, 42, 51, 63
Gill, Virginia T., 29, 109
Glaser, Barney G., 12, 43, 51, 178
Goffman, Erving, 15–17, 19, 68
Good, Byron, 6
Good, Mary-Jo DelVecchio, 8–10, 25–26, 50–51, 72, 185
Goodwin, Charles, 17–19, 27, 43, 97, 112
Goodwin, Marjorie H., 17–19, 26–27, 29, 187
Gordon, Deborah R., 7–8, 34
Groopman, Jerome, 26
Heath, Christian, 125
Hepburn, Alexa, 80, 125
Heritage, John, 13, 15, 18, 27–29, 76–78, 82, 97, 101n, 175
hierarchy see asymmetry; authority; decision-making; uncertainty
Hill, Jane H., 6, 13, 17, 19
hope
changing health status, 9
‘hope work’, 2, 21, 26, 30–31, 185
institutional mandate, 3, 9–10, 26, 71, 94, 156, 181
management, 30–31
moral imperative, 25–26, 51, 72, 156
political economy of, 8
in talk about dying, 23
theorization, 9, 25–26, 29–31, 185–186
see also optimism; time; uncertainty
hospital
Catalan/Spanish bilingualism, 34
daily routine, 40–41
fieldwork, 38–39
gendered space, 41–42
hallway conversation, 41, 111, 156
intimate confinement, 33–34, 42, 60–63, 67, 151, 180
outpatient clinic, 65–66
pediatric cancer unit, 38–40, 60–61, 64–67, 71–72
privacy, 60, 66
significance of open door, 66
social space, 40–41, 61–67
visibility of cancer in, 61
waiting room, 41, 62, 65–71, 105, 156, 161, 167

see also authority; community; pediatric hospitalization
alternating chemotherapy and recovery periods, 24, 72, 118–121, 129, 181
apartment for family, 59, 62–63, 68, 107, 120, 131, 151
with friends, 57, 65–66, 161
uncertainty about chemotherapy session, 56–58, 134–135

see also community; local uncertainty
under uncertainty
Hutchby, Ian, 16–17
Hymes, Dell, 5, 49

identity
altered by cancer, 49–51, 68–72, 181
and the body, 38, 51, 61, 70, 72, 105
Catalan language as symbol of, 34
child as ‘developing’ and vulnerable see child; protection
doctor as healer and administrator of hope, 12, 26, 72, 94, 185–186
eating, 63–64
media portrayal of cancer patient, 36–37
morality, 25–26, 49–51, 61–63, 72, 186
parent as stoic protector and provider, 11, 49–51, 63, 68–72, 181
situated, 14
social order, 12–13

see also mutual pretense
IF-THEN answer and question see contingent answer; contingent question

illness
chronic, 16, 50–51
life-threatening and life-shortening, 13, 20, 35, 50–51
natural history of illness approach, 28–29, 43–44

see also cancer; cancer trajectory; time
immunosuppression, 59–60, 66, 156, 181

see also infection; side effect

implicitness, 44–47
and avoidance, 44–47, 182
cancer diagnosis news, 103, 108
component of communication regulation, 181–182, 184
and death, 29–30, 154
interactional achievement, 5–7, 29–30, 44–47
interpreted as asking about delicate matter, 97, 134, 150, 169, 175–178
port-a-catheter as end of chemotherapy, 157–158
question, 80–81, 89–90
terminal illness prognosis news, 162–163
information
child’s need for, 3, 11, 46, 182
compartmentalization, 44, 50
information-giving approach, 12
withholding to protect child, 2, 10, 79, 94

insufficient answer see answer; response
interaction, social, 15–17, 27–31, 88–89, 100, 184 see also conversation analysis
interactional work, 25, 47, 74–75, 89, 93, 100, 169, 178, 185
interpretation, display of in subsequent talk, 27–28, 46, 75, 82–84, 88–90, 93–94, 134, 149

Irvin, Judith T., 13, 17, 19
isolation
as preventive treatment, 59–60, 66, 134, 164
social aspect, 62

see also immunosuppression; proximity; side effect

James, Allison, 16–17, 20, 39
joking
doctor’s, 81, 118, 142, 145, 175
mother’s, 63
patient’s correction of doctor, 133
positive affect, 68, 134
relationship, 130, 132–133, 151–152

see also familiarity with doctor; response; teasing
knowledge
patient’s, of own body, 56–57
required to ask question, 4
survivor’s deficit of, about diagnosis and
treatment, 2, 19, 187
of treatment, 2, 22, 51–55, 71 see also
medical expertise under child
unknown vs. unknowable, 21, 23, 56, 71
see also information; uncertainty

Kuipers, Joel C., 6

language see communication
Lerner, Gene H., 124
linguistic anthropology, 27
analytic approach to avoidance and the
‘unsaid’, 44–47
and conversation analysis, 26–29
critique of ‘one size fits all’ disclosure,
xx, 12–13
ethnography of communication, 5–7,
187–188
theorization of language, 4–7, 180–181
see also communication; methodology
local uncertainty see uncertainty
logocentrism, 5, 17
see also referentialist view of language
Lutfey, Karen, 30, 45

marginalization see agency; asymmetry;
authority; child
Mattingly, Cheryl, 25–26, 43, 126, 185
Mayall, Berry, 39
Maynard, Douglas W., 6, 29–30, 45, 79,
109, 111, 185
medication see autotransplant;
chemotherapy treatment; side effect;
treatment
Meeuwesen, Ludwien, 15–16
methodology
combined ethnographic and situated
analysis, 21, 26, 33–34, 43–48, 103,
128, 178–179, 187–188
context in anthropology and
conversation analysis, 26–31
contextual natural history mode, 43
contextualization, threefold, 26, 34,
43–48, 187–188
ethnographer’s positioning, 31, 33,
41–42, 48, 111
ethnographic approach, 3–6, 8, 12–13,
26–31, 33–34, 183
fieldwork at hospital, 38–39
illness trajectory approach, 43–44
longitudinal cancer trajectory analysis,
43–44
longitudinal conversation analysis
approach, 28–29
natural history of illness approach, 28, 43
situated interactional analysis, 43
study participants, 38–40
transcription, 80, 193–196
Mishler, Elliot, 76
Moerman, Michael, 26, 29, 43
morality
being at the patient’s side, 61–63
eating, 63–64
normalcy, 51
obligation of proximity, 61–63
optimism, 25–26, 186
participation, 13–20
responsibility, 19–20
social order, 51, 72, 186
see also identity
mother
avoidance of crying see crying; emotion
regulation
companionship of ethnographer, 41–42,
166–167
comparison among their children, 70
disagreement with child, or doctor see
disagreement
emotional division of labor with child,
156, 161
friendship among, 57, 163 see also
friendship
limitation as caregiver in the hospital,
63, 70
importance of presence, 61, 164
morality of keeping company, 61–63
Index

as primary care giver, 41–42, 61–62, 131, 160
resistant to doctor’s optimism, 155–158
‘sameness’ of experience, 70
suffering directly correlated to child’s, 69
symbolic role of feeding child, 63
wish to take child’s suffering upon self, 70

news
asymmetry between delivery of bad and good, 29, 184
bad as episodic vs. uncertain as pervasive, 3, 10, 184–185
delicate, delivery of bad see delicate; construction of
disclosure preferences in Spain, 35
display of orientation to bad, 97
implicit delivery see implicitness
improvised delivery, 94–100, 127
and management of hope and optimism, 26, 29–31, 154
‘noetic crisis’, 111
Pedro, delivery of bad, 109–127
protection from bad and uncertain, 3, 5, 9–10, 38, 69, 79, 110, 151, 160–161, 167
Robert, delivery of bad, 94–100
valence of, as negotiated process, 29–31
withholding of any kind equated with bad, 6, 70, 79, 130, 149, 158, 182
withholding of, as limiting child participation, 3
waiting for, in pre-treatment, 106
non-disclosure, 4, 7–13, 44–45, 75
see also communication regulation; communication strategy; disclosure
nonverbal
crying, 112–127 see also crying
pointing, 2, 4, 95
touch, 115–117
see also gaze; gesture
normalcy
being together, 60–63
doctor’s effort to create in post-treatment, 155
eating, 63–64
focus on present course of treatment, 50–52, 72, 181
medical knowledge to create, 52
morality, 51
new normal, 67
significance, 51
sustaining, 50, 60, 72, 181
transition back to normal life, 65, 159
see also community; identity; routinization
nurse, 40–41, 52–54, 58, 62, 71, 89–90, 131, 167, 170
Ochs, Elinor, 17, 19, 26–27, 126, 187
optimism (optimistic)
categorical and redoubled, 23, 153–154, 168–179
collusion, 26, 153–154, 178–179, 185
component of communication regulation, 3, 29, 181
doctor identity, 25–26, 71, 94, 186
false expectation, 8
future, construction of, 109, 118–126, 185
institutional mandate, 3, 9–10, 25–26, 71, 156, 186
interactional construction and management, 10, 21, 27, 29–31, 75, 185
morality, 25–26, 51, 72, 186
parent identity, 11, 24–25, 49–51, 71–72, 186
reassurance, 9, 103, 134, 150
resistance to, 103, 112, 152, 157–158, 186
stoic child fighting cancer, 37–38
see also hope; identity
orientation, 28, 77–78, 83, 97, 101
overlap, 92, 113, 117, 120–121, 135, 137, 139–143, 146–147, 150, 173–177
overall uncertainty see uncertainty
Index

Paci, Eugenio, 7–8, 34

parent
  communication role, 11–12
  comparison among patients, 70
  disagreement with child, 54
  father, 42
  mother, 41–42, 61–62 see also mother
  parental aside, 67–71
  protection of child, 3, 11, 38, 69, 70, 72, 160–161
  'sameness' of experience, 70
  visiting, 64–67
see also decision-making; family; identity

participation, 6–7, 13–21
agency, 18
child's, in treatment conversation, 14–15, 20, 77, 149, 151–152, 182, 187
dependence on action, 16, 18
equated with talk, 17
ethical and legal dilemma, 20
institutional politics, 185
non-responsible participant, 18–19
positive consequence, 19
problematization of, 13–20, 182–183
vs. responsibility, 14, 18–21, 187
in treatment administration, 48, 52, 71–72
see also child; patient; question

past
absence of talk about, 110, 127
diagnostic uncertainty, 21, 110, 156–157
interwoven with present and future, 26
regret about, 69
see also time

patient
individual profiles, 189–192
initiated course of action, 13–14, 46, 76–79, 88–89
medical expertise, 22, 52–54, 71, 133
permanent vs. temporary, 61
visiting, 64–67

play
guessing, 57–58
playing doctor, 41, 94
playroom/waiting room, 66–67

wheelchair, 66–67

pediatric
  cancer unit, 61 see also hospital
  parent and patient taking part in treatment, 71–72
  triadic communication, 15
see also cancer; child; decision-making; participation

Peräkylä, Anssi, 6, 25, 29–30, 97, 125, 185
Philips, Susan U., 5
Pizzo, Philip A., 2, 39, 52, 134, 168
Pomerantz, Anita, 28, 83, 97
post-treatment, 23–25, 153–154
categorical optimism, 153–154, 178–179
collusion, 153–154, 178–179, 185
communication strategy, 9–10, 56, 173–179, 184
crying, 71
diagnostic testing, 155
follow-up visit, 9, 154–160
greater openness about negative emotion, 156
mandate to uphold optimism, 155–156
Toni's, 168–178
preference organization, 28, 81–86, 88–89, 97, 169
present, living in the, 21–22, 26, 50–52, 55–56, 72, 110, 156
see also future; time; normalcy
pressure see questioning pressure
pretense see mutual pretense
pre-treatment, 23–25
communication strategy, 9, 102–128, 184
diagnostic testing, 103–104
treatment interview, (Pedro's), 111–126
variability among patients, 24
see also diagnosis; disclosure; treatment
preventive isolation see autotransplant; immunosuppression; infection
prognosis
  activity at end of treatment, 153
  avoidance of long-term, 47
child as passive recipient of prognostic information, 11–12
and interpretation of local complication, 58
problematization of prognostic information, 8, 11
question with implication for, 99–101, 110, 170, 176
and silence, 93
and uncertainty, 21, 23, 168
worsening with relapse, 161, 168
see also news; optimism; time; uncertainty

protection
of child from stranger’s stare, 70
doctor role, 79, 94, 110, 151, 156, 182
more important than information, 3, 20, 69–70, 104–105, 151, 182
parental role, 11, 69–72, 156, 160–161, 181
from potentially distressing news, 3, 5, 10, 38, 69–72, 105, 110, 151, 184–185 see also news
to spare suffering, 8–9, 35, 108, 165–167
vulnerable child in need of, 12–13, 20, 51, 72, 181
see also child; communication regulation

Prout, Alan, 16, 20, 39
proximity, obligation of, 61–63
see also community; morality; mother

question, 76
analysis of child’s, 42–43, 46, 75, 149–150
avoidance of silence after, 6, 93, 130, 183
child treating as answerable, 75
contingent, 74, 79, 86–87, 100
evidence of challenge to child’s participation, 4–5
evidence of child’s knowledge, 4, 182, 187
expanding medical visit, 77, 93–101, 112, 116–117, 124–125, 147, 170, 177, 186
displaying child’s agency, 5, 20–21, 186–187

illustrating child’s desire for involvement, 20–21
as initiating course of action, 88–93
interpreted as display of worry (vs. request for information), 134, 142, 146, 149–151, 175
vs. interrogative, 77–78
about negative, uncertain aspect, 1, 42, 112, 169–170
pessimistic, doctor resistance to, 47
with prognostic implication, 133, 150, 168–176
some easier to answer than others, 79–80
some with more uncertainty than others, 80
about overall uncertainty, in remission, 156
patient stops asking, (Pedro), 126
placement at boundary of doctor-initiated activity, 77
and sequential context, 88–89
setting action and topic agenda, 76–77
unanswered and increased child worry, 147–149
about uncertainty and future,
doctor avoidance of, 25–26, 31, 47, 74–76, 100–101, 110, 118, 125–126, 156, 158
uncertainty in relation to, 100–101
viewed as problematic by doctor, 75
young person asking greater number of than child, 40
see also ‘cat-and-mouse’ negotiation; answer pursuit by patient

questioning pressure
additional questions after perceived insufficient answer, 82–83, 85–86, 182–183
narrowing of persistent line of questioning, 142–145
see also question

Radcliffe-Brown, Alfred R., 132
reassurance, 103, 112–126, 146–152, 156–158, 182–183, 187
see also optimism; response
recovery period see hospitalization
referentialist view of language, 6–7, 183
see also communication; logocentrism
relapse, 23–25, 159–161
categorical and redoubled optimism, 153–154, 178–179
communication strategy, 9–10, 94–100, 153–154, 178–179, 184
difficulty, 160
friendship, 161
Toni’s, 168–178
see also second line under treatment; post-treatment
remission, 153–161
communication strategy, 9–10, 178–179, 184
Marc’s and Quique’s, 154–159
uncertainty associated with, 23–25
willingness to talk about fear, anxiety and future, 9
see also post-treatment
repair, 137
research method see methodology
response, 78–79
‘I don’t remember’, 78, 140, 150
joking/teasing 142, 175
non-answer, 78–79, 137–151, 174, 183
smiling, 78, 90–91
unforthcoming, 150
see also account; answer; contingent response
responsibility, 18–19
burden of medical decision, 20
ethical and legal dilemma of increased child, 20
participation, 18–21, 187
morality, 19–20
positive consequence for child, 19
see also agency; childhood construction; decision-making; morality; participation
Robinson, Jeffrey D., 77–78, 186–187
role see authority; child; doctor; identity; morality; mother; mutual pretense; parent; patient
routinization, 49–51, 154–155, 181
see also chemotherapy session; normalcy
Rosen, David M., 16–20
Sacks, Harvey, 14, 43, 80, 88
Sargent, Carolyn, 20, 39, 42
Schegloff, Emanuel A., 6, 27, 46, 78
Schieffelin, Bambi B., 19
Scheper-Hughes, Nancy, 20, 39, 42
Schwartzman, Helen B., 17
sequential organization of talk, 27–28, 46, 75, 88–90, 93, 149
see also conversation analysis
side effect, 73n
after end of treatment, 2, 24, 155, 187
blood cell count, 56–60, 73n, 91
comparison between patients, 57–58
damage outweighing benefit, 24, 161
fear, 58, 143–151
guessing, 55–59
monitored by patient and parent, 52–55, 57–60
as sign of treatment effectiveness, 23, 57–58, 64
uncertainty, 22–23
see also chemotherapy treatment; infection; treatment
Sidnell, Jack, 6, 26, 29, 43, 74, 100
silence
avoidance of, 5–6, 93–94, 130, 183
critique of conspiracy of, 5–6
vs. not-talking, 5–6, 183
see also avoidance; response
Silverman, David, 16, 97
social support see community; friendship
social organization
interaction and social action, 27–28, 46, 75
pediatric cancer, 3, 104, 182
see also conversation analysis; interaction
Spain
cancer in, 2, 36–38
disclosure practices and preferences variability, 4, 7–9, 34–38
see also Catalonia
stem cell transplantation therapy see autotransplant
Stivers, Tanya, 15–17, 19, 26, 28–29, 78
Strauss, Anselm L., 12, 43, 50–51, 178
study participant, 38–40, 189–192
Surbone, Antonella, 6–8, 34, 36
suffering see crying; emotion; emotion regulation; mother; protection
surgery, 1, 4, 14, 24, 52–53, 104–105, 107, 109, 112
amputation, 67, 73n, 132, 157, 191
complication, 132, 156–157
porth-a-catheter, 52–53, 158
prosthesis, 61, 73n, 132, 191
Robert’s questions about, 94–100
see also treatment
talk see communication; communication strategy; interaction; participation
talking privately
compartmentalization of information, 44, 50
about death in the doctor’s absence, 44, 47, 163–167, 178–179, 183
parent–doctor hallway conversation, 41, 111, 156
parent–doctor meeting, 105, 111, 166–167
parent–parent aside, 67–71
young person with doctor, 105
see also communication regulation
Tates, Kiek, 15–16
Taylor, Kathryn, 7, 10
teasing
of doctor by patient, 133
of parent by doctor, 164
of patient by doctor, 9, 46, 81–83, 130, 132–134, 137–147, 150–152, 183
between patient and parent, 57, 68
see also joking; reassurance; familiarity with doctor
terminal illness see death; illness
Thompson, S.A., 27, 118
The, Anne-Mei, 8, 25–26, 44, 185–186
time
and cancer, 5, 21, 50–51, 110
chronic illness, 21–22, 50–51
natural history of illness approach, 28, 43
negotiating present-future boundary, 133–134, 143–151, 169–176
perception of, 26, 50–51, 72
theorization, 8, 25–26, 185–186
and uncertainty, 21
see also future; past; present; trajectory; uncertainty
togetherness see community; disagreement; family; friendship; hospital;
hospitalization; mother; proximity
trajectory see cancer trajectory; illness; methodology
treatment, 23–25
communication strategy, 9, 129–152, 184
as complex and demanding, 22, 50–53, 59, 130–131, 134, 149–150
focus on present course, 51–52, 72, 181
interview, 72, 103, 109–127, 132
knowledge of, 2, 22, 51–55, 71
parent and patient taking part in, 48, 52, 71–72
readjustment of, 52, 56
Robert’s, 94–98, 133–151
second line, 153–154, 159–161
therapies, multiple 73n, 104, 129
uncertainty associated with, 23–25
see also chemotherapy treatment
truth-telling, 6–9
Tyler, Stephen A., 6–7, 183
uncertain news, managing as objective of communication regulation, 1, 3, 10, 184–185
see also communication regulation; news
Index

uncertainty, 2–3, 10, 21–26
  avoidance of talk about, 9–10, 23–24,
  31, 45–47, 75–76, 156, 184
balance with hope, 30
child's acquiescence to avoidance, 47
hierarchical organization, 23
vs. hopelessness, 2
illusion of certainty, 3
interpretation of local uncertainty
  vis-à-vis overall uncertainty, 22,
  55, 58
local, 9, 21–23, 50, 55, 168–169, 181
multiple, overlapping, 3, 21–23
negotiation of limits, 30, 40, 46,
  74–79, 88, 100–101, 127–128,
  181–183
overall, 9, 21–24, 47, 50, 55–56, 72,
  153–156, 168–169, 181, 184
protection of child, 3, 10, 38, 70–71,
  79, 110, 151
social dimension, 74–75
turn-by-turn construction, 29, 74–76,
  88–90, 93, 100–101, 181
unknown vs. unknowable, 21–23, 56,
  71–72, 125
variability according to treatment period, 23–25
and young person's pursuit of answer, 75
waiting, 56
see also answer pursuit by patient; news;
  optimism

vulnerability see child; childhood
  construction; protection

wheelchair, 41, 61, 66–67, 106, 132
  see also surgery; play
Wilce, James M., 6, 125, 183
withholding of information equated
  with bad news, 6, 70, 79, 130, 149,
  158, 182
  see also communication strategy;
  evasion; information; news
Woodgate, Roberta L., 12, 41, 51, 61
Wooffitt, Robin, 6
Woolard, Kathryn A., 34

Young, Bridget, 11–12, 16, 25–26, 41, 51,
  62, 68, 72, 186
young person, 39
  obligation of proximity, 61–63
  pursuit of answer, 75–76, 85–86
  romantic friendship, 57, 131, 151
  treatment, interruption of life, 69, 160
treatment interview, 109–126
see also child; patient