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Title of Abstract:	Demographic and Health Predictors for the Desire for Hastened Death in Patients with Cancer Receiving Psycho-Oncology Services
Please copy and paste your abstract here: (no more than 300 words):	Background: Patients with cancer have greater rates of suicide than the general population. However, few studies have explored suicidal ideation in patients with cancer seeking psychological support. One aspect of suicidal thinking in patients with advanced illness is the desire for hastened death (DHD). This research explored predictors of DHD in an ambulatory cancer population receiving psychotherapy at an NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Methods: Eligible patients at the University of Colorado Cancer Center were recruited during a psycho-oncology services appointment. Consented participants (n=160) were emailed a REDCap secure link to an online survey assessing physiological and psychological factors related suicidal ideation. DHD was assessed using the Schedule of Attitudes Toward Hastened Death- Abbreviated (SAHD-A) scale. Demographic and health predictors including age at diagnosis, disease site, gender, marital status, ethnicity, race, and smoking history were extracted from electronic medical records. Linear regression and analysis of variance tests compared differences in DHD among the demographic and health predictors. Results: A total of 126 patients completed the online survey. Of the demographic and health predictors assessed, only race significantly predicted DHD (($F_{(3,116)}=2.99$, $p<0.05$)(White

mean=10.98, Black mean=8.5, Asian mean=10.0, Other Race mean=10.4). However, 92.5% of the sample was White. Smoking status (e.g., current, former, never) approached significance (($F_{(2,104)}=2.76$, $p=0.068$), with never smokers having the highest mean on the SAHD-A scale.

Conclusion: DHD is an important health concern for patients with cancer. This study provides preliminary evidence for examining demographic and health risk factors for DHD among cancer patients receiving psycho-oncology services. Future work should examine other psychosocial predictors of DHD in more diverse cancer populations and at various stages of psychotherapy treatment.