Visualisation of Patient data – for patients

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The costs of collecting data decrease with various new technology and to empower psychiatric treatment progress the patients has to be presented for the data. Patients have not received any formal education in reading data visualisations and vary in generally in formal school training.

Poul Gernes (1925-1996) is a Danish painter, graphical designer and sculptor. Poul Gernes wanted art to serve ordinary people's needs and decorated a large number of public buildings in Denmark. One building is Copenhagen University Hospital at Herlev. For Gernes the decoration was not "art for art's sake" but a matter of applied art that possessed a utilitarian function. Colors and figures do have an impact on the mood and state of patients. Well-colored environment promotes sense of wellbeing, initiate to work and a sense of identity among others.

Poul Gernes' graphical work is a decoration in many hospitals all over the world.

Datavisualisations has to balance aesthetics, function and targetgroups. Mainstream datavisualisation are designed for professionals and orientated towards function. Patients perceive data visualisations differently that clinicians. They have professional competence in reading patient data, they perceive the data with their own health story/life story in mind and they read/see hope/cure in the visualisation of their data. Data visualisation of patient data do have a timestamp and therefore the potential to tell a story. To hold single moments in time together and get a view of a longer period of time.

Data visualisations are a strong communication tool colors shapes and patterns is perceived by the perception system at a low level and a number graph types communicates with the lowest denominator of a patient segment. The data visualisations can be a new communication tool for the patient-clinician collaboration. The datavisualisation can include a collaborative commentary track(visualy) in which patients and clinicians interpret the data.

A new balance between aesthetics, function and prioritations of targetgroups when visualising Patient data are wanted. One in favour of patients.

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