

CINEMATHERAPY

An Evaluation of the MediCinema Experience was undertaken by

Tom Rice MA MA MRes

**in August 2005 assisted by Joanna Purchase BSc
under the auspices of the Guy's & St. Thomas' Hospital Trust's Ethics Committee
and Dr Alan Maryon Davis – Chair of the Institute of Public Health**

Summary

This study focussed on whether patients' experiences of seeing a film in a purpose-built cinema, usually after spending time on hospital wards, brought about perceived changes in their state of well-being.

The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The data obtained through the questionnaire indicates that patients

- are significantly, less frequently, aware of being inside a hospital building
- think about their conditions significantly less frequently
- feel tense or 'wound up' significantly less frequently
- report feeling pain or discomfort significantly less frequently
- are bored significantly less frequently
- feel relaxed and comfortable significantly more frequently
- are aware of being hospital patients significantly less frequently

while at MediCinema than when they are on their hospital wards.

These differences can be interpreted as positive indications of the benefits of MediCinema

It emerged from the interviews that patients feel that:

- MediCinema constitutes a break from the monotony of the hospital ward
- That the service even serves to provide excitement in the lives of some of patients
- Helps to create a range of experiences which are not usually associated with hospital life

Participant observation made the researchers aware that MediCinema provides the context for important social interactions between patients and between patients and their families.

This study suggests that MediCinema is a facility which is appreciated and valued by patients who experience it at St Thomas' Hospital.

In view of plans for expansion of the MediCinema concept, the service is likely to be similarly appreciated by patients at other hospitals.

For the full evaluation please email <mailto:info@medicinema.org.uk>.