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18 MAIO

12.30 > AUD. 1

2012

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DOES IT MATTER WHAT PATIENTS THINK ABOUT THEIR HEART DISEASE?

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Misconceptions about what it means to have coronary heart disease (CHD) and what to do about it are common. Limited research since the mid-1960s has demonstrated that holding misconceptions about living with heart disease adversely affects quality of life in people with heart disease. And yet health professionals rarely ask patients what they believe about their heart disease, and so patients' beliefs remain private. Does this matter?

This presentation will discuss the evidence base for the effect of beliefs in people with CHD and report on recent findings from a longitudinal study of people's common misconceptions about living with heart disease.