



Experience of Pancreatic Cancer Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy in an Outpatient Department

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Introduction

About eighty percent of pancreatic cancer patients are found to have inoperable cancer, and as such, is a disease with a very poor prognosis. Inoperable pancreatic cancer patients undergo chemotherapy and the place of the treatment is shifting from hospital to outpatient facilities. To maintain the best possible QOL during this time, it is important to address nursing care for palliative pain management.

The objective of this study is to clarify experiences of inoperable pancreatic cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy in an outpatient department.

Methods

1. Subject

Subjects were inoperable pancreatic cancer patients who were undergoing chemotherapy in an outpatient department of two selected hospitals in Hiroshima.

2. Items of data

1) Experience

Subjects about ways to spend time, their feelings and thinking every day

2) Population statistical variable : age, sex

3. Method of collecting data

A person doing research interviewd for subjects.

The interviews were done once or twice per one subject.

4. Analysis

Content analysis was done about subject's experiences.

Results

1. Summary of subjects

The subjects were eight, five women and three men. Their average age was 69.5 years old, from 50 to 80.

2. Patient's experiences

1) Prior to diagnosis

Their experiences included descriptions of 『The symptom of cancer emerged』 such as “**Becoming taken diabetes suddenly**”(2 of 8), “**Decreasing his weight rapidly**”(4 of 8), 『Being pointed out as something unusual from the people around them』, 『Coping with the symptoms by oneself』, 『**The disease was difficult to find out**』(4 of 8) prior to diagnosis.

2) At diagnosis

Their experiences included descriptions of 『Faced with an unexpected diagnosis』, 『Faced the diagnosis calmly』, 『Family was shocked』, 『Regret』, 『Not having knowledge about the disease』, 『Looking for information about disease and treatment』, 『**Being conscious about death**』(3 of 8), 『**Being at a loss**』(1 of 8) at diagnosis.

3) During treatment

main category	category
Symptoms of cancer and treatment	Palliative of symptoms from the effect of treatment (5)
	Symptoms of cancer and chemotherapy (8)
	Symptoms of cancer (3)
	Side effect of chemotherapy (8)
	Side effect of narcotic analgesics (1)
Coping with symptoms of cancer and treatment	Pain from symptoms of cancer and treatment (4)
	Coping with physical pain of cancer and treatment (7)
Life with cancer	Coping with psychological pain of cancer and treatment (3)
	Spending usual daily life (6)
	Spending healthy daily life (2)
	Difficulty of daily life from disease and treatment (4)
	Spending daily life with physical symptoms (4)
Attitude and thinking about cancer and treatment	Confusion life coexisting with cancer and diabetes (5)
	Financial burden (7)
	Realizing for being cancer from having painful symptom (6)
	Thinking about the disease calmly (4)
	Wishing to not be looked as a sick person (4)
	Hoping for effect on the treatment (3)
	Thinking about the condition and effect on the treatment from symptoms and results of the examination (4)
Thinking about significances of living and treating (4)	
Support from the people around them	Feeling anxiety for the disease (3)
	Living with feeling a period of life (5)
	Foreseeing about worsening of the condition in the future (3)
	Trust in their doctor (6)
	Support of family (7)
Support from the people around them	Consideration for family (4)
	Support from the people around them (5)
	Support from same sick persons (2)

Conclusion

Inoperable pancreatic cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy in outpatient department lived with cancer supported by the people around them, coped with having symptoms of cancer and treatment, and evolved in their attitude and thinking about cancer and treatment.

Nurses have to communicate intentionally at necessary time supporting patient, and understand patient's need, and support patient's autonomy respectfully cooperating any specialists.