



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Supportive Care Needs of Head and Neck Cancer Patients Undergoing Therapy at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital

Category:

Non-communicable diseases including mental health

Authors:

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Objectives:

This study sought to explore the supportive care needs of head and neck cancer patients undergoing therapy at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH)

Method:

A descriptive exploratory qualitative study design was used among patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer who were 18 years and older, and receiving treatment at the KBTH. Purposive sampling was employed to select participants, and 15 interviews were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide, data was transcribed, analysed through coding and identifying themes.

Results:

Clients with HNC experienced varied levels of physical and psychosocial challenges that they needed support to overcome. Physical difficulties included pain, disrupted routine activities, changes in physical appearance and fatigue and weakness. Psychosocial struggles comprised despondence, social isolation, low self-esteem and fear and anxiety. Informational constraints included concerns about prognosis, lack of knowledge about the condition, and varying levels of information given. Coping strategies involved relying on God for hope, seeking family support, and engaging in diversional therapy like singing and dancing

Conclusion:

This study provides insights into the supportive care needs of individuals with HNC, including physical, psychosocial, and informational needs. Addressing these needs can improve their well-being. Healthcare professionals should focus on pain management, routine disruptions, appearance changes, fatigue, emotional well-being, social isolation, self-esteem, reducing patient stress, information provision, and coping strategies to support patients effectively and promote their overall health and recovery
Keywords: Head and neck cancer, patient, supportive care, needs, therapy

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