

Pain Experience among Patients Receiving Cancer Treatment: A Review

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Pain is the most frightening and distressing of all cancer symptoms for patients and their families [1,2]. Cancer-related pain is a challenging for oncology nurses and other health care providers in terms of lack of knowledge and assessment of pain that leads to inadequate pain management [1]. Advances in cancer-related pain management and improvements in radiological and surgical treatments were reported, however, it has been shown that many patients with cancer continue to experience high levels of pain. American Cancer Society reported that 50%-70% of cancer patients are experiencing some degree of pain and less than half get adequate relief of their pain, which negatively impacts their quality of life. It has been reported that 44% of cancer patients were experiencing moderate to severe pain [3].

Research Studies reported that the prevalence of cancer-related pain was high: 64% in patients with metastatic or terminal disease, 59% in patients on anticancer treatment and 33% in patients who had been cured of cancer [4]. Approximately 95% of cancer patients could be in pain free if that pain were managed appropriately.

Findings conrmed that cancer pain is a multidimensional symptom that consists of feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, emotional distress, and have a negative impact on coping mechanism. Cancer pain was also described as a complex phenomenon which is associated with physiologic, psychosocial consequences, cognitive, behavioral, and socio-cultural dimensions [4,5]. ere are many other factors a ecting cancer related pain such as type of cancer, stage of disease, type of treatment received and location of cancer [6].

Research ndings have raised the importance to study the

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databases: pain experience, cancer pain, pain management, pain symptoms.

Many articles obtained and reviewed, only 14 research articles that achieved the inclusion criteria for the purpose of this study. The inclusion criteria were the following: (1) it is a research-based study; (2) written in the English language; (3) investigated the pain experience among patients receiving cancer treatment; and (4) published article. Based on the inclusion criteria, a total of 14 articles published from 2005 to 2012 were selected and formed the basis for this review. Each article will be read and analyzed, to identify the main themes/ findings of the studies. The articles will be systematically compared for common concepts to recognize similarities and differences in scope and findings across the studies. The articles that included in this study were quantitative and qualitative studies that published in peer reviewed nursing and medical journals. Countries within which the studies for this review were conducted include the United States, Australia, Japan, China, Israel, Greece, and Taiwan's.

The 14 studies composing this integrative research review were seven quantitative studies and seven qualitative studies. Although only 14 studies were included in this research review, a wide variety of instruments were used to measure concepts related to cancer pain experience. The most common questionnaires used in these studies are the Brief Pain Inventory, semi structured interviews, and BQII. The sample sizes in the 14 studies in this review ranged from 11 to 560 adult cancer patients aged between 18 and 82 years.

Fig

psychological function. The pain location was reported to influence the patient's physical and psychological functioning. Specifically, 25% of the patients stated reduced physical activity, 12% loss of autonomy, 32% reported fatigue and generalized weakness, and 10% reported



