Quality of Life of Family Caregiver of Patients with Cancer

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Abstract

Background: Cancer diagnosis has a significant impact not only on patients with cancer, but also on their Primary caregivers. Understanding the effects of cancer diagnosis on various aspects of the family caregivers' QOL is significant because these variables are key components of their quality of life. This study intended to describe the impact of caring for patients with cancer on the quality of life among their primary caregivers.

Method: Quantitative non-experimental descriptive design was used. Study was conducted in the oncology inpatients units of Tawam Hospital in Al Ain. The tools used were demographic proforma for the caregiver and patients and Caregiver Quality of life – Cancer (CQOLC- standardized tool: validated after translation with permission). Totally 120 samples were selected by systematic random sampling method; every second caregiver was included as per the criteria, followed by the informed consent from the patients and caregivers. The demographic profoma tools were also given to patients and caregivers to fill. When assistance was needed the researcher was available for them.

Result: Majority of caregivers (60%) belonged to 31-50 years of age and 60% of them were females. Most of the caregivers 74.2% were non-Emiratis, Muslims 82.5%, children of the patients 38%, Married 78.3%, studied high school 47%, employed 49.2% and 70% had financial support for the treatment of the patient. 2. Caregiver QOL: Majority of the caregivers (62.5%) had moderate QOL, 35% had good QOL, 3.5% had poor QOL, and none of the

Methodology

is chapter discusses the methodologies employed in the current study including characteristics of sample, population and setting. Also the instruments used in the study and the data collection procedure as well as human rights protection.

e present study adopted a descriptive design and the purpose of conducting this study was to assess the quality of life experienced by families of patients with Cancer, associate family caregivers' quality of life with their selected demographic variables and with the demographic variables of the patients, and determine which family caregivers are most at risk of having reduced quality of life.

Research design

is study required a quantitative non-experimental descriptive design. is design was chosen since it is the most appropriate design to the nature of the study as it help in describing/obtaining information regarding variables of speci c population. is design helped in observing, describing, and documenting aspects of phenomena (QOL of family caregiver of patient with cancer) as it occurs.

Setting of the study

e study was conducted in Tawam Hospital in Al Ain, which is a 466 bed tertiary structured hospital located in the Eastern region of Abu Dhabi. e hospital serves as national and regional referral center for oncology services neonatal care, and cardiac care. More precisely, the study took place in oncology unit (inpatient settings).

Population

e target population of the study was all family caregiver of patients with cancer who were hospitalized at Tawam hospital. e accessible population was all family caregiver of patients with cancer treated in adult oncology unit in Tawam Hospital during the data collection period.

Sample

Inclusion criteria: Being identi ed by the patient as the unpaid person (family member) most involved with their actual care. 18 years of age or older, able to understand and give consent for participation in the study. Family caregiver of a patient with either non metastatic (receiving curative treatment) or metastatic disease (receiving palliative treatment/palliative)

Exclusion criteria: Person with chronic physical and psychological health problems.

• Family caregiver not staying with the patient for not less than 12 hours per day.

Sample size and sampling technique

Probability sampling- systematic random sampling method was followed to select participants. In inpatient setting every second caregiver was recruited to the study.

e sample size was estimated based on the hospital records for in patients during the period of January-December 2014. e number of patients admitted during the year 2014 was 660, with monthly admission rate of 55-80 per month. e total sample size was estimated as 120 samples.

Instrument

Caregiver quality of life index – Cancer: e CQOLC is a 35 item instrument that uses a 5-point Likert scale to assess the QOL of family care giver of Patients with cancer, developed by Dr. Weitzner in 1999 [6]. e instrument is multidimensional with items measuring Physical functioning, emotional functioning, family functioning, and social functioning. It is ranged from 0 (not at all), 1 (a little bit), 2 (somewhat), 3 (quite a bit) and 4 very much. It include ten items relate to burden, seven to disruptiveness, seven to positive adaptation, three to nancial

It also shows that 47.5% of the respondents were males and 52.5% were females. e majority of the respondent were Non -Emirati (70%) and the remainder 30% were Emirati. e table also shows that 79.2 % of the respondents were Muslims, 16.7% were Christians and 4.2% were others.

Table 5 represent the demographic details of the patients and the marital status of the patients' shows that the majority of the respondents 60.8% were married, 12.5% single, 18.3 % widows/ widowers and the remainder 8.3% were divorced.

S. No	Details of the Family Caregivers	Frequency	Percentage
	Marital Status		
1	Single	15	12.5
	Married	73	60.8
	Widow/Widower	22	18.3
	Divorced	10	8.3
	Education		
2	Illiterate	9	7.5
	High School certificate	73	60.8
	Diploma Degree	6	5
	Baccalaureate Degree	28	23.3
	Master Degree	2	1.7
	PHD Degree	2	1.7

2	Distruptiveness	28	Jul-28	
3	Positive Adaptation	28	0-21	
4	Financial concerns	12	0-12	
5	Total CQOLC (Includes the above four aspects and general components)	140	39-106	

Table 9: Area wise QOL of the family caregivers of patients with cancer.

Age: e chi-square was signi cant, 0.406, p<.001 for age and the QOL of family caregivers. Gender: e chi-square was signi cant, 0.281, p<.001 for gender and QOL of family caregivers. Nationality: e chi-square was signi cant, 0.3336, p<.001 for nationality and QOL of family caregivers.

S. No	Variable	Frequency	Chi-Square	Df	P Value
1	Age in year				
	20 or below	3			
	21 – 30	28			
	31 – 40	34			
	41 – 50	38	264.769	260	P< 001 .
	51 – 60	14			
	Above 60	3			
2	**Gender**				
	Male	48	57.440	52	P< 001 .
	Female	72			
3	**Relationship with the patient**				
	Daughter	24			
	Son	22			
	Wife	30			
	Husband	18			
	Mother	5	443.824	416	P< 001 .
	Father	2			
	Sister	8			
	Brother	7			
	Others	4			

test to test the association between family caregivers QOL mean score and study variables such as age, gender, education, income, type and