

ABSTRACT

CANCER PATIENTS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DOCTORS IN PALLIATIVE AND PAIN RELIEF POLYCLINIC DR. SOETOMO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Introduction: Fear of pain, indignity, abandonment, and the unknown are often felt by patients in the end of life. Patients with terminal illness, such as cancer, often feel abandoned by doctors in transition to end of life care. Doctor-patient relationship is the basic of care, good doctor-patient relationship would be a great foundation in palliative care.

Aims: The aim of the research is to find out the cancer patients' perception of doctors and palliative care in Palliative and Pain Relief Polyclinic Dr. Soetomo General Hospital.

Method: A Qualitative study based on 7 interview with cancer patients. Data collecting was done by using semi structured in-depth interview to cancer patients in Palliative and Pain Relief Polyclinic Dr. Soetomo General Hospital according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study.

Result: There are 7 subjects in the research, age from 37-84, four females and three males, with varying cancer diagnosed and majority of subjects are in stage 3 and stage 4, education backgrounds are mostly grade and high school, ethnic groups are predominantly Javanese and Madurese, and housewife is the dominant occupation. Cancer patients' perceptions of doctors in palliative care are 'doctors have good communication' and 'doctors are close to patients', and the perceptions of palliative care are: palliative care is able to alleviate patients' symptoms, is proactive and always ready to help patients, makes patients feel appreciated, has friendly doctors and nurses, and makes patients feel comfortable to keep on coming to palliative for treatments.

Conclusion: Cancer patients' perceptions of doctors in Palliative and Pain Relief Polyclinic Dr. Soetomo General Hospital are: the doctors have good communication with patients and make the patients feel close to doctors. Cancer patients' perceptions of palliative care are good in general, from its ability to alleviate patients' symptoms, to make patients feel appreciated and comfortable, the friendly doctors and nurse in palliative care, and its enthusiasm to help patients.

Keywords: Perception, Palliative Care, Doctor, Cancer Patient.