

End of Life Care and Family Issues and their Concerned at Palliative Care at Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital

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Introduction

palliative care also focuses on issues beyond end of life care such as care for those with chronic illness and potentially life threatening illness in remission. In addition end of life care focuses on a number of issues beyond the scope of palliative care such as advance care planning which should be undertaken even by healthy and young persons who may experience an unanticipated acute, life threatening event such as an accident.

Objective

The objective of the study was to find out the family issues and their concerns of end of life care planning at palliative care unit admitted patient.

Method

A retrospective study was carried out among the family members of advanced stage cancer patients who were admitted in palliative care unit from 1st Jan to Dec 31st 2017. 70 family counselling forms which include patient's demography, final diagnosis with stage, and patient's knowledge about their own disease, present patient's palliative performance status, relevant family issues from nearest

family members and planning of end of life care.

Result

The study revealed majorities of patients were male. 70% have PPS <50% (80%) lies between 50 to 88 years with stage IV disease (80%). Most of them CA lung 80, Ca Stomach 30, Ca breast 36 Ca gallbladder 24, ca head and neck 24, ca ovary 16, ca colon 24, ca pancreas 18, sarcoma 24. 60% of family members prefer home for final hours of life and 60% want no active treatment and allow natural death. 62% patients did not know their disease as cancer due to family barriers. 70% family member thought knowing their malignancy with increase their anxiety and hasten death.

Conclusion

Majorities of the patients 62% did not know their disease due to family barrier, 2/3 of the families had many issues which need to be addressed financially, socially as well as emotionally, most of them want to take back to own home at last hour of life. As there are no good facilities to take care at periphery, home hospice is special need for patient's care and bereavements.

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