

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAIN SYMPTOMS, ANXIETY AND PERCEIVED FAMILY SUPPORT IN LUNG CANCER PATIENTS

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Introduction: Lung cancer is a stressful condition for both patient and family. The anxiety and pain accompanying cancer and its treatment have a significant negative influence on the patient's life quality.

Aims: To investigate the correlation between anxiety, pain and perceived family support in a sample of lung cancer patients.

Methods: The sample consists of a total of 101 lung cancer patients hospitalized at the oncology department of a general hospital. Anxiety, pain (severity and interference) and perceived family support were assessed using Spielberger's State - Trait Anxiety Inventory (SSTAI), the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) and the Family Support Scale (FSS) respectively.

Results: Analysis showed that there is a correlation between anxiety, pain and family support as perceived by the patients. Pain intensity (severity and interference) has a positive correlation to both state and trait anxiety and a negative correlation to family support. The effects of pain in everyday life also exhibit a positive correlation to state and trait anxiety and a negative correlation to family support. Anxiety (state and trait) has a significant negative correlation to family support.

Conclusions: Pain intensity in lung cancer patients seems to have an effect on patient anxiety and perceived family support. Treating patients' pain could lead to a decrease in anxiety symptoms as well as an increase in perceived family support.

References: Tselebis A, et al. The 13 item Family Support Scale: Reliability and validity of the Greek translation in a sample of Greek health care professionals. *Asia Pacific Family Medicine* 2011;10:3.