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The Role of the Psychologist in Palliative Care in Response to Patients With Cancer

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The psychologist's intervention in palliative care has widened glances on the dignity of the patient with chronic-degenerative diseases. In this way we perceive the relevance of the psychologist's possibilities in acting together with the patient-family-health team. The aim of this study is to discuss the role of the psychologist in the context of palliative care in patients with cancer, relatives and staff. The methodology used was a bibliographic review. About the results found, points to the increasing number of people with chronic-degenerative diseases having cancers as one of the leading causes of death in the world. This fact emerges the need to include palliative care in the ongoing training of psychologists. In oncology, the recurrence of palliative chemotherapy, where patients adhere to relieve symptoms in their final months, promise to increase the life span and may also slow down the pain. But prolonging the life span is always the best option? In this scenario, the hospital psychologist, along with the team and their families, is responsible for promoting respect for the patient's rights to make their own choices, presenting clear data about the disease and its evolution and respecting its limits of understanding and emotional tolerance. In addition to also acting on the quality of life of patients with end-stage cancer, as a facilitating agent in coping with stressful, sometimes aversive, events related to the treatment process, among them: aggressive pharmacological therapy and its side effects. The psycho oncology concludes that palliativeness deals with the acceptance of the human condition in the face of finitude, presenting to the patient outside the possibilities of healing, to his relatives and friends, the necessary conditions for the understanding of his finitude, since, in this perspective, is a disease to be cured, but the end of the life cycle. Therefore, the study made it possible to offer a humanized service that promotes interlocution between patient / relatives and health staff.

Keywords: Palliative Care; Psycho Oncology; Psychology

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