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Can second opinion for cancer treatment improved patient survival? A population-based analysis of bladder cancer in Taiwan

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Aims: Taiwan's healthcare increasingly prevalence advocate for patient adherence to second opinion. That have been shown to improve outcomes of survival have been for treatment in Taiwan. The aim of this study was to evaluate the relationship between second opinion and survival of all stages of Bladder cancer patients.

Methods: From January 2011 to December 2015, patients with bladder cancer who were treated and tracked in a teaching hospital in southern Taiwan were recruited as the research participants. Phone interviews and hospital visits were conducted to inquire about the survival for 2011~2015 bladder cancer cases.

Results: Adherence to second opinion case showed: one-year survival: 100.0%, two-year survival: 97.7%, three-year survival: 97.7%, four-year survival: 69.8%; five-year survival: 29.5%. Not adhere to second opinion case showed: one-year survival: 100.0%, two-year survival: 89.7%, three-year survival: 73.4%, four-year survival: 37.9%, five-year survival: 15.2%.

Conclusions: The major findings from this 175 patient study were that: a closer relationship was existed in second opinion ($r=0.171$, $p<0.05$) and survival rate, the patients who received treatments in adherence to second opinion had a higher survival rate than those who did not adhere. This study confirmed that the implementation of second opinion of bladder cancer can improve patient's survival rate, demonstrated the importance of team work and the second opinion.

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