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Psychological and psychiatric manifestations in patients with cancer

Alin Ciobica², Daniel Timofte¹, Radu Danila¹, Nicoleta Cartas¹, Emil Anton¹ and Lidia Ionescu¹

¹University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Gr.T.Popa" Iasi, Romania

²Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University, Iasi, Romania

Lately there is an increased interest in the literature related to the psychological and psychiatric effects of various malignant diseases, which may be considered to have a greater impact on the patient and his family. Moreover, the psychological and psychosocial impacts of the various malignant diseases are often discussed in the epidemiological literature, but still they have not been compiled yet into firm conclusions. There are very few studies regarding these aspects for the patients with pancreatic cancer, a pathology that is very important for our research group and it is analyzed here from various perspectives. During the period following the diagnosis of a life-threatening disease, such as an advanced stage of cancer, patients find themselves in a state of crisis, with physical, social, and psychosocial effects. In this way, all the patients perceived changes in everyday life that included negative psychological, mental and practical changes, but also other changes. Generally, the mental changes could be separated into three categories: despair, uncertainty, as well as the lack of a valid explanation. Also, most studies are mentioning that for the patients with advanced neoplasm, the prevalence of depression and anxiety is limited between 25% and 30%. Still there are a few studies that mention a prevalence up to 70%. However, for these patients, the depression and anxiety seem to decline over time, but may remain stable or increase significantly within the last 6 months of life. Similar aspects were also described for pancreatic cancer, the special pathology which we are interested here, as previously mentioned. There is an obvious increase awareness regarding the psychological and psychiatric effects of various malignant diseases, which may be considered to have a greater impact on the patient and his family. However, further studies are necessary in order to better understand these important manifestations.

alinmimi@yahoo.com

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