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Strategies for enabling high quality home care for dying cancer patients in Japan: A meta-synthesis of the literature

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In order to consider strategies that enable high quality home care for dying cancer patients, we clarified four research questions by reviewing the literature. We searched the NPO Japan Medical Abstracts Society database through Ichushi-Web and selected literature meeting all of the following conditions: a) Research focused on home care for Japanese dying cancer patients, b) published between 2005 and 2015, c) use of qualitative research methodology, d) research subjects were patients (excluding child patients) and family members or medical staff who were primary caregivers, e) research articles only, and f) except contents having no relation about research question. This resulted in the selection of 13 articles from which content was extracted relevant to our research questions. All of results were grouped separately dependent on their relevance to one of the research questions. The research questions were "What enabled patients to live at home until they died?" "What are the difficulties the dying patient encounters by living at home until death?" "What represents effective support for patients living at home until they die?" and "What represents ineffective support for patients who live at home until they die?" The results of this review show that five things are needed to ensure high-quality end-of-life home care: 1) Deep internal family bonds, 2) care to the dying patient by the family according to a framework provided by the medical staff, 3) a guaranteed unconstrained daily life, 4) the provision of effective support for dealing with the family's swinging emotions, and 5) the provision of systematic support from visiting medical staff and the hospital.

## **Biography**

Makiko KONDO obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing from Osaka Prefecture University in 2007. Currently, she is an associate professor at Okayama University's Graduate School of Health Sciences, where she teaches undergraduate, master's, and doctoral nursing courses. Her field of expertise is qualitative studies, and her research themes involve caring for parents with cancer and their children, grief care, clinical nursing competency, and extreme cases of Hansen's disease.

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