Hematology and Depression Levels

Examining correlated factors among hospitalized patients

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BACKGROUND: Depression in patients with cancer negatively influences physical symptoms, treatment success, coping, and quality of life (QOL), and is associated with increased mortality.

OBJECTIVES: This study investigated the prevalence of depression and explored fatigue, QOL, and pain that is associated with depression in patients on first admission to a hematologic oncology unit.

METHODS: This descriptive study measured depression, QOL, and fatigue with the Patient Health Questionnaire–9, the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy (FACT)–General, and the FACT–Anemia scale, respectively. Pain levels were examined with a numeric rating scale.

FINDINGS: 58 patients participated; 17 reported moderate to severe depression, which highly correlated with fatigue, QOL, and pain. Among all factors, multivariate analysis showed that fatigue, particularly the physical domain of fatigue, has the strongest reverse correlation with depression.

KEYWORDS
hematologic oncology; hospitalization; depression; fatigue; physical well-being

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