The role of family caregiver in the head and neck cancer: psychopathological distress and quality of life evaluation

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ABSTRACT

Background: This family caregiver (FCG) has become a hot topic. This figure among head and neck cancer patients is still largely uninvestigated. Our study was to describe in a more detailed way the role of FCG and psychopathological relationship between FCG's wellbeing and patient's wellbeing and emotional pattern.

Methods: Sixty couples of patients and their caregivers were involved in this observational cross-sectional study between April 2007 and May 2011 at the ENT Division, 2nd Medical Oncology Division and 2nd Radiotherapy Division of San Giovanni Battista Hospital of Turin, taking into account sociodemographic characteristics and cancer clinical characteristics. The survey was performed using Distress Thermometer (DT), Stay-Well (SW), Montgomery-Asberg Depression Scale (MDRS), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) and Trait Anxiety Inventory Manual in Y1 and Y2 form respectively. Data analysis underlined a positive association among psychological and emotional scales of patients and caregivers (Fig. 3).

Results: Prevalence of patients' psychopathology in patients with QoL score > Mean Value (BDI mean value 8,2±5,3; cut-off 9) and 48,3% (STAI Y1 mean value 40,2±10,2; cut-off 40) and 36,7% (STAI Y2 mean value 36,7±8,2; cut off 40) respectively; self reported and clinician rated depression are 28,3% (BDI mean value 39,1±8,7; cut off 40) respectively; self reported and clinician rated anxiety are 50% (STAI Y1 mean value 7,6±5,8; cut-off 6) respectively. Prevalence of caregivers' psychopathology in caregivers with QoL score < Mean Value (MDRS mean value 7,9±5,9; cut-off 6) respectively. Prevalence of caregivers' psychopathology in caregivers with QoL score > Mean Value (MDRS mean value 7,6±5,8; cut-off 6) respectively. Prevalence of caregivers' psychopathology in caregivers with QoL score > Mean Value (MDRS mean value 7,6±5,8; cut-off 6) respectively.

Conclusions: 1) Prevalence of patients' psychopathology in patients with QoL score < Mean Value (BDI mean value 8,2±5,3; cut-off 9) and 48,3% (STAI Y1 mean value 40,2±10,2; cut-off 40) and 36,7% (STAI Y2 mean value 36,7±8,2; cut off 40) respectively; self reported and clinician rated depression are 28,3% (BDI mean value 39,1±8,7; cut off 40) respectively; self reported and clinician rated anxiety are 50% (STAI Y1 mean value 7,6±5,8; cut-off 6) respectively.

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PREVALENCE OF PATIENTS' PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND QUALITY OF LIFE EVALUATION

Table 1: Prevalence of patients' psychopathology with QoL score < Mean Value

Table 2: Prevalence of patients' psychopathology with QoL score > Mean Value

Table 3: Prevalence of caregivers' psychopathology with QoL score < Mean Value

Table 4: Prevalence of caregivers' psychopathology with QoL score > Mean Value