

SPIRITUAL CARE, NEGLECTED ASPECT OF HEALTH IN CANCER MANAGEMENT

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Health is complete physical, mental, social, spiritual and ecological well being; these health determinants are interactive and dynamic and make health multi causal. But the prevailing medical science paradigm is based on biological model only. According to this model, health is mono causal.

Although according to the World Health Organization (WHO), health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (OMS, 2001) but many indigenous peoples and also the new idea in WHO refer to a holistic view of the world; thus, they define health in terms of complete wellbeing, which also includes the spiritual dimensions.

In other words, by incorporating several paradigms based on indigenous perspectives, health finds expression through the dynamic relationships and equilibrium among the inseparable components of the individual (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) and the collective (ecological, political, economic, cultural, social and once again, spiritual). This holistic conception of health encompasses the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being of an individual and his or her social community under conditions of equity.

Spirituality in Latin means “breath” and is “a sense of connection to something greater than oneself“. It is that part of human beings which seeks “meaning” and “purpose of life”.

Spiritual beliefs and spiritual practices may impact both on a person’s response to a certain disease and the outcome of disease process. Evidently, spiritual factors like adaptation and acceptance have a positive impact on the course of cancers, substance abuse disorders and other diseases, whereas anxiety and indifferentism are obviously negative factors in coping with most of the diseases.

Religion has important effects on humans’ life and has influenced many political decisions. Religion also plays a role in the shaping of individuals’ lives. Religious and spiritual beliefs are important aids in coping with serious diseases in a positive way, often remaining the central point of reflection in patients when all biomedical treatments are no longer effective in terminal disease.

So philosophically speaking about cancer or other diseases are not able to be the purpose of life and will be solved simply with such great ideas.

Patient’s spiritual believes can impact diagnoses, treatment and follow up of cases. Cancer survivors often rely on their religious and spiritual beliefs as a way of deriving the meaning of their illness experience and survivorship.

Although addressing spiritual concerns is often considered a life issue, such concerns may arise at any time after diagnoses. In Islamic content there are many strong believes concerning the spiritual concept to support life of people living with cancer, qualitatively and quantitatively which will be discussed in this paper.