

**FACTORS RELATED TO NEEDS IN PALLIATIVE CARE AMONG PATIENTS WITH HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA**

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Patients with Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in Vietnam have been increasing and they were more suffered from various symptoms which lead to increase needs in palliative care. This descriptive correlational research was to identify relationship between physical symptoms, anxiety-depression, social support and needs in palliative care among HCC patients. The Symptom Management Theory was utilized as a framework. The study conducted among 115 HCC patients with HCC at the Nuclear medicine and Oncology center in Hanoi, Vietnam. The data was using demographic questionnaire, Cohen-Hoberman Inventory of Physical Symptoms (CHIPS), Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, Problems and Needs in Palliative Care questionnaire-short version (PNPC-sv), and Hopkins Symptom Checklist 25 (HSCL- 25). Spearman's rho was employed to test the relationship among all variables. The majority of the patients were male (74.8 %) and ages ranged from 22 to 80 years with the average age of 57.3 years ( $\pm 11.29$  years). The patients suffered from physical symptoms with 40.9 % quite a bit, 39.1% little bothered and 6.1% extremely bothered. The mean scores of support from family, friends and significant others were  $26.17 \pm 3.10$ ,  $23.07 \pm 5.84$ , and  $10.03 \pm 4.50$ , respectively. The percentage of patients who had anxiety and depression were 56.5%. The highest prevalence of problem and need were in physical symptoms. (83.5%, 86.1%, respectively). Physical symptoms were high significant positively correlated with problems and needs in palliative care. ( $r = .808$ ,  $p = .000$ ; anxiety and depression had high positive correlation significantly with problems and needs in palliative care ( $r = .886$ ,  $p = .000$ ). Social support had low negative correlation significantly with problems and needs in palliative care ( $r = -.219$ ,  $p = .000$ ). So, this study recommended that nurses should assess and manage patients' symptoms, control their psychology and promote their social support. To improve palliative care, standard guidelines for symptom managements in palliative care should be developed and implemented. Moreover, further research should be conducted to test effectiveness of the guidelines.

**KEY WORDS:** NEEDS IN PALLIATIVE CARE / HEPATOCELLULAR  
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