

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG PATIENTS WITH LUNG CANCER

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ABSTRACT

Lung cancer is the most common cancer in the world known as the leading cause of cancer mortality in Vietnam. They have to deal with many symptoms and variety of treatment modalities which disturbing their normal daily life leading to poor quality of life. The aim of this study was to examine the factors associated with the quality of life among lung cancer patients in The Nuclear Medicine and Oncology Centre of Bachmai hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam. This was descriptive correlational research conducted among 115 lung cancer patients. Data were collected from the patients' hospital record and interview with the patients using Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HAM-A), Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, and the EORTC QLQ-LC30. Spearman's rho was employed to test the relationship among all variables. The results showed that most of the patients were male 74% and the average age was 58.9 (SD \pm 10.0). The majority of the patients lived in rural areas (55.7%), they were farmers (34.8%) and retired (33.9%). More than half of the patients had been hospitalized for less than 2 weeks (52%). The quality of life of the lung cancer patients were low with a mean of 48.97 (\pm 7.94). Lung function was significantly and positively correlated with the QOL ($r = .190, p < .05$) while anxiety was significantly and negatively correlated with QOL ($r = -.347, p < .05$). In conclusion, lung function and anxiety were significantly correlated with the QOL. Therefore, in order to improve the QOL, it recommended that patients should be well managed their anxiety level to be assessed and controlled during the follow up period. A continuous program for symptom management along with anxiety management should be implemented to provide patients with comprehensive care.

KEY WORDS: QUALITY OF LIFE / LUNG FUNCTION / ANXIETY / SOCIAL SUPPORT /
LUNG CANCER.

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