

life-extending therapies among patients with advanced cancer

林佳靜

Lin;C

摘要

Abstract

The purposes of this article are to explore the extent to which oncology unit patients with advanced cancer in Taiwan receive life-extending therapies and to examine the relationship of care goals (curative vs palliative) to levels of pain and family caregivers' concerns about pain reporting and analgesic administration. Forty pairs of patients with advanced cancer and their family caregivers (N = 80) were recruited from inpatient oncology units in Taiwan. Of these patients, 53% were receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy for life-extending or curative reasons as opposed to palliative goals. Patients with advanced cancer who were receiving life-extending therapies experienced lower levels of pain intensity than did those who were not receiving life-extending therapies. Moreover, Taiwanese family caregivers of patients with advanced cancer had concerns about reporting pain and administering analgesics regardless of whether the patient was receiving life-extending therapies. However, the family caregivers whose patients were receiving life-extending therapies were less concerned about using analgesics than were those caregivers whose patients were not receiving life-extending therapies. Finally, family caregivers' concerns about pain management as measured by the Barriers Questionnaire–Taiwan (BQT) form were related to family caregivers' reluctance to report their patients' pain. Implications of this study are discussed in terms of palliative care and pain educational programs.