

A Population-based Study on the Specific Locations of Cancer Deaths in Taiwan, 1997-2003

林佳靜

Lin HC;Lin CC

摘要

Abstract

Background: Quality of end-of-life care received by cancer patients has never been explored in an entire Asian country for all ages and cancer groups. **Patients and methods:** Retrospective cohort study to examine trends in quality of end-of-life care among a cohort of 242 530 Taiwanese cancer patients who died in 2000–2006.

Results: In the last month of life, cancer care tended to become increasingly aggressive as shown by (i) intensive use of chemotherapy (15.45%–17.28%), (ii) frequent emergency room visits (15.69%–20.99%) and >14-day hospital stays(41.48%–46.20%), (iii) admissions to intensive care units (10.04%–12.41%), and (iv) hospital deaths (59.11%–65.40%). Use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (13.09%–8.41%), intubation (26.01%–21.07%), and mechanical ventilation(27.46%–27.05%) decreased, whereas use of hospice services increased considerably (7.34%–16.83%). Among those receiving hospice services, rates of referrals to hospice services in the last 3 days of life decreased from 17.88% to 17.13% but remained steady after adjusting for selected covariates.

Conclusions: The quality of end-of-life care for Taiwanese cancer decedents was substantially inferior to that previously reported and to that recommended as benchmarks for not providing overly aggressive care near the end of life.