

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the identification of bio-psycho-social and spiritual needs of patients in the terminal stage of cancer, the group being researched consisted of seven seniors aged 72 to 95 years. The thesis is divided into two parts theoretical and empirical. In the theoretical part, the reader will find a classification of needs in terminally ill patients, including an evaluation of measuring implements used to detect these needs. This part is also devoted to the issue of palliative care in the Czech Republic and includes aspects of accompanying patients in the last phase of life and the role of the psychologist in this process. In the empirical part, qualitative research is implemented by using interviews to expose the often unmet psychosocial and spiritual needs of these patients. Within the research the Four-Step Model of Needs Detection has been developed which enables deeper insight into the psyche of hospice patients. A key finding is the conflict between acceptance and denial of impending death, which is intensely experienced by respondents. The research has also identified a less common defence mechanism, humour, which helps patients cope with challenging life situation. Previously underreported needs, such as contact with animals and the need to maintain a sense of femininity, which are rarely mentioned in the context of palliative care, have been revealed. Patients' emotional responses were varied and contradictory. The work confirms the need for a holistic approach in palliative care that includes meeting not only biological but also psychosocial and spiritual needs, and recommends a sensitive and individualized approach to the unique needs of patients. The Four-Stage Model of Needs Detection represents a new way of monitoring the needs of patients in the terminal stage of illness and can serve as inspiration in the development of educational programs for health professionals preparing for this care.

KEYWORDS

Palliative care, inpatient hospice, terminally ill, Four-Stage Needs Detection Model, bio-psycho-social and spiritual needs, internal conflicts, defense mechanisms, emotions