

ABSTRACT

PREVALENCE OF PSYCHIATRIC CO-MORBIDITY AMONG CANCER PATIENTS ATTENDING THE TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

AIMS: To assess the Psychiatric disorder as co-morbidity in cancer patients, attending a tertiary care hospital for the treatment. To assess the typology, frequency of psychiatric morbidity, to understand the relationship with the Socio-demographic variable and treatment variable.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the frequency, type of psychiatric co-morbidity in cancer patients attending the tertiary care hospital.
2. To assess the correlation of psychiatric co-morbidity among the socio-demographic variables.
3. To assess the correlation of psychiatric co-morbidity and duration, nature and typology of cancer.
4. To study the correlation between psychiatric co-morbidity and Treatment variables.

METHODOLOGY: This cross sectional descriptive study was done in sample of 100 cancer patients, attending the Surgical Oncology, Medical Oncology and radiotherapy units of tertiary care hospital. Socio demographic data was collected by a semi structure proforma with relevant variables about the malignancy and treatment. GHQ-12, MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview, Hamilton Rating scale for Depression, Hamilton Rating scale for Anxiety were used to assess the psychiatric co-morbidity. The collected data were subjected to descriptive statistical analysis.

RESULTS: Psychiatric co-morbidity was prevalent among 58.0% of patients with Cancer. Majority of the patients had Adjustment Disorder consists of 46.6% (27 patients), Major Depression was accounting for 27.6% (16 patients), followed by General Anxiety Disorder in 10.3% (6 patients), 6.9% (4 patients) had Panic disorder, 5.2% (3 patients) had Dysthymia and 3.4% (2 patients) had PTSD. The significant predictors of Psychiatric morbidity increases among the females, positive family history of psychiatric disorder, patients receiving the

radiotherapy and patients who have history of more than 7 weeks of duration of last treatment have high psychiatric morbidity.

CONCLUSION: Psychiatric morbidity seen significantly high among the Cancer patients. Thus, it is important to assess the Psychiatric co-morbidities in Cancer patients.

Keywords: Cancer, Adjustment Disorder, Dysthymia, Major depression, Panic disorder, Post traumatic stress disorder.