



Supportive care needs among cancer survivors: A Cross-Sectional Study

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INTRODUCTION

Cancer is the major cause of morbidity and mortality. morbidity in cancer patients has been evaluated in many methods, including quality of life assessment, satisfaction with care, and, more recently, patient demands. The aim of this study was to explore the supportive care needs in cancer survivors.

METHODS

A cross-sectional study was conducted using validated self-report scales to assess supportive care needs. Survivors suffered from cancer were recruited in a provincial cancer hospital in north of China between December 2020 to May 2021. Main outcomes were unmet supportive care needs of survivors with cancer, as assessed by the Supportive Care Needs Survey.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, survivors suffer from cancer have high unmet support needs in all areas except sexuality needs. Multidisciplinary supportive care, including psychological support and the provision of information regarding the healthcare system and treatment message might help address these needs.

RESULTS

5145 participants with cancer completed the survey.

Mean age was 57.8 years (SD= 13.871, range 8-93). 61.3% of them were male, 57.8% were married, 59% of them were farmer, 53.7% of them have metastases from cancer. 37.7% have lung cancer, 31.1% got digestive cancer, 8.3% breast cancer. 12.1% have pain.

Survivors with cancer did not feel sufficiently supported with regard to psychological support, health system and information, physical and daily living, patient care and support.

Health system and information needs were the highest while sexual needs were the lowest among all of supportive care needs. The mean and SD of different domains were respectively: Health system and information needs (36.78±28.93), patient care and support needs (33.54±28.40), psychological needs (30.22±36.44), physical and daily life needs (27.12±25.83), sexuality needs (17.68±23.09).

Seven of the top ten unmet needs belong to health information domain.