



Health of adolescents who live with cancer parent

Azarbarzin, M¹, Taleghani F², Malekian A³

1. Islamic Azad University, Najafabad branch

2. Nursing & Midwifery care research Center, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran

3. Isfahan medical university, psychosomatic research center

Objectives: Cancer diagnosis and its subsequent treatment have physical, emotional, psychological, social, spiritual and practical consequences. The disease not only affects the patient, but also impacts on the patient's immediate family including spouse and children.

There have been many researches about effects of cancer on family, but adolescents of cancer patients have received relatively little attention in research literature; furthermore in some cultures like Iranian culture in which the family relationships is very strong, there are no researches, so the research team decided to explore the health problems of Iranian's adolescents who have a parent with cancer.

Methodological approach: This is a qualitative study that conducted based on mixed methods studies paradigm. Participants were the adolescents between 11-20 years old who live with cancer parent and some teachers and friends of them, and some physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers.

Data gathered at some Isfahan cancer hospitals, some doctors' clinics and the home of patients by purposive semi structured deep interviews. Data analysis was conducted by constant comparative analysis.

Findings: The findings showed that; the most important health problem of these adolescents were 1- Psycho-cognitive problems; 2- Educational and support needs; 3- Cancer as a two edged sword in family relationships; 4- Confronting with parent's cancer in the time period; 5- Effects of cancer on social dimensions; 6- Effective and efficient agents; 7- Education in special conditions.

Conclusion: Since these problems are very common in adolescents with cancer parents, the nurses and other health team workers must know them and have some programs to resolve them. At this article we suppose some tips for this matter.