



Hopelessness a predictor of spiritual distress nursing diagnosis in cancer patients: a follow-up study

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BACKGROUND AND AIM

Spiritual distress is defined as a lack of meaning in life, disconnection, suffering and anger at God (Caldeira et al., 2013). Also, spiritual distress, is a nursing diagnosis according to NANDA-International, Inc, which hopelessness is one of the defining characteristics (Herdman et al. 2021).

AIM: To assess hopelessness as a predictor of in spiritual distress nursing diagnosis in cancer patients during chemotherapy treatment

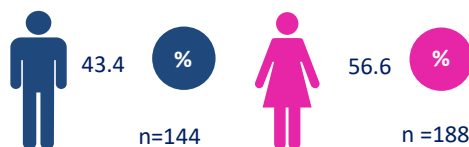
Keywords: cancer; follow-up; hopelessness; spirituality.

METHODS

- Quantitative and follow-up study.
- Setting: a Hospital Centre in the South of Portugal.
- Inclusion criteria: cancer patients; able to read and write; 18 years old and over.
- Random sampling technique.
- Sample: 332 participants.
- Questionnaire included the instrument “Spiritual Distress Scale” (SDS) (Martins, et al., 2019) and defining characteristic hopelessness (Herdman et al. 2021).
- Data was collected between from February 2019 and May 2020 and collected when patients were initiating chemotherapy and then quarterly until completing one year of chemotherapy
- Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS version 24.
- Ethical approval was obtained from the institution.
- Written consent was obtained.

RESULTS

Sample characteristic's (N=332)



- Age range= 22-83
- Mean age = 60.3 (SD= 11.7)

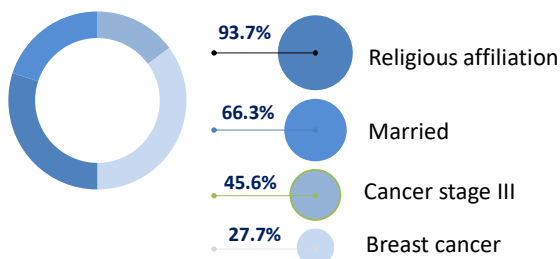


Table 1 Hopelessness in cancer patients during one year of chemotherapy.

Baseline (T ₀)		3 months (T ₁)		6 months (T ₂)		9 months (T ₃)		12 months (T ₄)	
n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
35	10.5	40	12.7	41	13.5	40	14.0	42	15.3

Table 2 Hopelessness a predictor of spiritual distress.

T3 (9 months after chemotherapy)	
T3	$\beta=3.254, p=0.029$
T4 (12 months after chemotherapy)	
T4	$\beta=3.461, p=0.019$

CONCLUSION

At the end of nine months after the start of chemotherapy, hopelessness appears as a predictive variable for the diagnosis of spiritual distress, therefore nurses can anticipate autonomous nursing interventions with the purpose for the readiness for enhanced hope in cancer patients.

References:

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