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Palliative Care in Lung Cancer: From the Challenges to the Home Care

Coelho S.P.¹, Pinho-Reis C.², Capelas M.L.³, Andrade de Mello R.⁴, Crispim D.H.⁵, Sá L.¹

¹Institute of Health Sciences, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Porto, Portugal, ²University Fernando Pessoa's Hospital School, Gondomar, Portugal, ³Institute of Health Sciences, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisboa, Portugal, ⁴Department of Biomedical Sciences and Medicine, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal, ⁵Hospital das Clínicas da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Background: Lung cancer is currently one of the most common malignant neoplasms worldwide. Distress symptoms related to the primary disease or in combination with disease progression have challenges faced by the patients, family, and the health care team.

Aims: Demonstrate the benefits of an integrated palliative care approach for lung cancer patients at the time of diagnosis and also the benefits of care these patients at home.

Methods: Integrative review on the ISI Web of Knowledge, PubMed, CINAHL and Academic Search Complete. The keywords were “Lung Cancer”, “Palliative Care”, “Approaches” and “Therapies”. The inclusion criteria were articles in the English published until 2015 with full-text and references available and peer-reviewed. The research and documentation were carried out in accordance with the Prisma 2009 Referencia guidelines.

Results: 164 articles were found, of which 33 were selected to full analysis. Most of the lung cancer patients suffer from multiple distressing symptoms with high levels of intensity and are simultaneously influenced by disease progression and the undertaken therapies. Palliative interventions have an integrative philosophy that has been demonstrate to be an effective relief of the patients suffer. Moreover, palliative develops interventions that control the symptoms related to the disease and integrates the different dimensions of people and their problems in the evaluation of their health status and therapeutic intervention to respond favorably to the patients and family's needs because many cancer patients prefer a conservative or supportive treatment.

Conclusion/discussion: The provision of specialized palliative care at home allows the respect of the patients' preferences and providing humane care throughout the course of the disease, particularly at the end-of-life.