

Psycho-Oncology Service

Introduction

The Psychiatry Division at the National Cancer Center Hospital East was established in July 1996. It was designed not only to manage and alleviate the emotional distress suffered by cancer patients, their families, and the oncology staff, but also to study the influence of psychosocial issues on patients' quality of life and survival.

Routine Activities

The Psychiatry Division consists of one staff psychiatrist, three adjunct psychiatrists, one staff clinical psychologist, and one clinical resident. The main clinical practice involves psychiatric consultation to assess and deal appropriately with the emotional distress and other psychiatric problems suffered by cancer patients who are referred by oncologists and patients themselves. The consultation data are shown in the Table.

Psychiatric diagnosis is based on the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition) criteria. Consultation data included 13 cancer patients' family members and 8 oncology staff members.

Liaison rounds are held every Wednesday and Friday. As educational programs, multi-center joint clinical tele-conference with the National Cancer Center Hospital, Chugoku Cancer Center Hospital, Kyushu Cancer Center Hospital, and Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences are held every Thursday evening. As community educational programs, clinical conferences for homecare nurses are held at Kashiwa Health and Welfare Center once every two months, and open lectures for Kashiwa citizen are given yearly.

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Psychiatric consultation data (N = 427, January - December, 2006)

		N (%)
Age	Mean ± SD (median, range) (yr)	60.3±13 (61, 23-92)
Gender	(male/female)	229 (53.6%)/198 (46.4%)
Inpatient/Outpatient		316 (74.0%)/111 (26.0%)
Cancer site	Head and neck	116 (27.2)
	Lung	75 (17.6)
	Breast	35 (8.2)
	Esophagus	35 (8.2)
	Stomach	29 (6.8)
Stage	Recurrent or metastatic	266 (62.3)
PS	0/1, 2/3, 4	136 (32%)/176 (41%)/114 (8%)
Pain	Presence	242 (56.7)
Psychiatric diagnosis	Adjustment disorders	118 (27.6)
	Delirium	86 (20.1)
	Major depression	58 (13.6)
	Others	100 (23.5)
	No diagnosis	65 (15.2)