

Emotional and Social Issues Facing Cancer Survivors in Palliative Care

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ASCO Recommends Palliative Care as a Part of Cancer Treatment



Palliative Care

Palliative care focuses on preventing, managing, and relieving the symptoms of cancer and the side effects of cancer treatment.



Palliative care provides comprehensive support to people living with cancer and their family, friends, and caregivers. Anyone, regardless of age or type and stage of cancer may receive palliative care before, after, and during treatment.



Talking about palliative care soon after a cancer diagnosis helps patients better understand their prognosis and goals of treatment, clarify their expectations, and maintain their quality of life.



Palliative care treats physical issues such as pain, nausea, fatigue and also focuses on supporting a patient's emotional, spiritual and practical needs. But not only the patient, but also the family and caregivers as well.



Palliative care can be received at any age
and any stage of an illness.



Receiving palliative care does not mean that the patient can no longer receive disease-directed treatment.



Research shows that patients who receive both types of treatment often have fewer symptoms, maintain a better quality of life, and report increased satisfaction with their treatment plan and may live longer.



Early palliative care helps patients cope, study says

Cancer patients who received early palliative care along with oncology care were more likely than those who got oncology care alone to use active and engaged coping styles at 24 weeks, according to findings presented at the 2016 Palliative Care Oncology Symposium. The study included 350 patients with lung cancer or non-colorectal gastrointestinal cancer that was considered incurable.

How Palliative Care Differs from Hospice Care

Although you may hear “palliative care” and “hospice care” used in similar ways, they are not the same. Palliative care is given at every step of the treatment process as an extra layer of support for people with any stage of cancer. Hospice care is a specific type of palliative care provided to people with later-stage disease who are expected to live 6 months or less.



The End

