Discussing the Effect of Medical Team Method in the Hospice Palliative Care to Terminal Cancer Patient

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Introduction

One of the main purposes of the hospice-palliative care program is to provide a hospice for the terminally ill cancer patients. Weisman assumed that a hospice should consist of five aspects which include Awareness of the end of life, Acceptance, Proprietary, Timing and Comfort. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to explore firstly the condition of the terminal cancer patients in the hospice. Secondly to investigate the effect of Medical team work method and finally to compare the relationship between the hospice score and service result [1].

Materials

This study involved subjects from those from the terminally ill cancer patients who passed away in the hospice palliative care unit at medical Centre during 2012-2013. There were a total of 292 patients considered for the study. Thirty patients were excluded from the study because there was data missing from their file. The remaining 262 patients information was collected on 157 males (53.8%) and 105 females (36%).

Methodology

The method used was Snowball sampling with questionnaires combined with Qualitative analysis to achieve the target of this study. It was divided into two parts the “hospice indicators” and “hospice service evaluation”. The assessment was carried during the medical team work meeting once a week. The team work members involved were the Hospice Physician, Nurses, Psychologists, and Clergy, Social workers, Art therapists and other counsellors [2].

The purpose of the Case discussion was to evaluate the “hospice indicators” and “hospice service evaluation” of the patients who died during the week in the unit. If there was any controversy in the opinions, the views of primary care would be given priority [2-4].

Firstly, the assessment of “hospice indicators” referred to in Weisman’s hospice five symptoms is used as the assessment criteria. Scores were in settings from 0-3. It was given on the day of patient’s admission, and also on the three day before the patient passed away. Secondly, the “hospice service evaluation” consisted of six aspects with twelve indicators. It can be used to assess either patients or families regarding to the work of the medical team [4-6].

Result

The results show that there was a dramatic increase on every item of “hospice indicators”, although "comfort" showed the most significant increase (2.57±0.56 vs. 1.90±0.67, p<0.05) after the hospice palliative care score was applied [7]. With the “hospice service evaluation”, scores could reach up to 4 which was dramatically associated to the “hospice indicators (p<0.05) [6-10].

Conclusion

To sum up, caring of terminally ill cancer patients through hospice –palliative care medical team method showed that the “hospice indicator” for the terminal cancer patients were markedly increased on all aspects. Those aspects with high scores included the following sections of “family’s grief support”, “patient participation” and “non-verbal conversation support” [11]. It indicated that the medical team members were able to demonstrate complete respect for the treatment decision making and patient rights, while also providing adequate grief advice for the families. However, a lower score was given in the “emotion stability” which showed that psychological support should be a focus for further study in the future [12-14].

References

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