

Poster presentation

Depression at the patients' diagnosis with cancer

Anila Hashorva*¹, Irma Bekteshi¹ and Elizana Petrela²

Address: ¹Psychiatric Department, University Hospital "Mother Teresa", Tirana, Albania and ²University Hospital "Mother Teresa", Tirana, Albania

* Corresponding author

from International Society on Brain and Behaviour: 3rd International Congress on Brain and Behaviour
Thessaloniki, Greece. 28 November – 2 December 2007

Published: 17 April 2008

Annals of General Psychiatry 2008, **7**(Suppl 1):S96 doi:10.1186/1744-859X-7-S1-S96

This abstract is available from: <http://www.annals-general-psychiatry.com/content/7/S1/S96>

© 2008 Hashorva et al.; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

Background

Cancer is the second likeliest cause of mortality in Greece. There are 3.500-4000 new cases per year. The literature suggests that major depression is present in 25% of cancer patients.

Materials and methods

We interviewed 100 patients with different types of cancer and 100 healthy people without cancer as a control group (January-Jul 2005). The Hamilton Depression Rating Scale was used to quantify depression severity.

Results

41% of the patients fulfilled the diagnostic criteria for Major Depressive Disorder according to DSM-IV-TR in comparison with only 4% of the control group control. This significant difference suggests that cancer is significantly related to the development of depression. The severity of depression is not related to the type of cancer or to gender. However there was a strong relationship between depression and age.

Conclusions

Depression is an important problem in patients with cancer and intense treatment is necessary.

References

1. Mainio A, Hakko H, Timonen M, Niemelä A, Koivukangas J, Räsänen P: **Depression in relation to survival among neurosurgical patients with a primary brain tumor: a 5-year follow-up study.** *Neurosurgery* 2005, **56**:1234-1241.
2. Kua J: **The prevalence of psychological and psychiatric sequelae of cancer in the elderly - how much do we know?** *Ann Acad Med Singapore* 2005, **34**:250-256.
3. Klopfer B: **Psychological variables in human cancer.** *J Proj Tech* 1957, **21**:331-340.