

**Advanced cancer, pain and quality of life****Edward Chow, Joav Merrick****Series: Health and Human Development****Nova Science Publishers, 2010****ISBN: 978-1-61668-400-6**

Pain is said to be one of the most feared and distressing symptoms in chronic disease and one that disrupts all aspects of life.<sup>1</sup> Cancer pain has a significant impact on the overall quality of a cancer patient's life by influencing physical, psychological, and social aspects. When cancer pain persists and worsens, it can serve as a sign of the progression of disease and can create a sense of hopelessness because patients fear that their lives are not worth continuing or patients lose the meaning of living if they must live in pain.<sup>1</sup> The present book highlights some of the latest research in pain in patients with advanced cancer and their quality of life covering a wide range of topics. It has been published by Nova Science Publishers and it is part of a series entitled *Health and Human Development* with publications from a multidisciplinary group of researchers, practitioners and clinicians for an international professional forum interested in the broad spectrum of health and human development. An interesting part of this book is the presentation of four case studies indicating the combination of theory with practice.

The chapters cover a diverse set of topics, which are examined in a sequence suggested by the broad section headings below.

**Section one: pain management**

Chapter 1. Psychodynamic pain management for cancer patients. Chapter 2. Improving cancer pain management in the home. Chapter 3. Registered nurse awareness of and practice related to cancer pain. Chapter 4. The relationship factors between radiation oncologists and hospice professionals that influence cancer pain palliation.

**Section two: palliative radiotherapy**

Chapter 5. Bisphosphonates in combination with radiotherapy for the treatment of bone

metastases. Chapter 6. Are baseline ESAS symptoms related to pain response in patients treated with palliative radiotherapy for bone metastases? Chapter 7. Improvement of symptoms following palliative radiation for bone metastases. Chapter 8. Pain flare following palliative radiotherapy for symptomatic bone metastases. Chapter 9. Exploring the optimal definitions of partial response and pain progression in patients receiving radiation treatment for painful bone metastases. Chapter 10. Post procedure radiation therapy after kyphoplasty or vertebroplasty/cementoplasty for bony metastatic disease.

**Section three: advanced cancer**

Chapter 11. Skeletal related events in patients with metastatic bone disease. Chapter 12. A critical discussion of symptom clusters in metastatic cancer. Chapter 13. Meaningful change in pain scores in the treatment of bone metastases. Chapter 14. Multidisciplinary approach to metastatic bone disease. Chapter 15. Gender difference in patients with advanced cancer. Chapter 16. Is it possible to predict the survival of patients with advanced metastatic cancer? Chapter 17. Projected referral for an out-patient palliative radiotherapy clinic. Chapter 18. Utilization of performance scales in an outpatient palliative radiation oncology clinic.

**Section four: quality of life**

Chapter 19. Can we measure quality of life for patients with metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC)? Chapter 20. The European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality-of-Life Group Bone Metastases Module (EORTC QLQ-BM22) questionnaire. Chapter 21. Quality of life issues in patients with bone metastases. Chapter 22. Bone metastases quality of life instrument tool.

**Section five: some case reports**

Chapter 23. Surgical stabilization of severely destructive upper cervical lytic bone metastases. Chapter 24. Simple bracing for the relief

of intractable pain. Chapter 25. Cemented hemiarthroplasty, percutaneous acetabular cementoplasty and post operative radiation for a high risk lesion of the hip. Chapter 26. Remineralization of an impending fracture from an osteolytic metastasis in a breast cancer patient from palliative radiotherapy and bisphosphonate.

**Section six: acknowledgements**

The chapters presented earlier report empirical findings using figures and charts. In this way, it is easier for the readers to compare different outcome measures and tools.

**Brief review**

This book is also intended to provide a comprehensive review and evaluation of the state of advanced cancer, with an eye to new developments on the horizon that will strengthen the capacity to measure, evaluate and improve pain management in the context of cancer care. The present book's material is accessible to a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds. The readers of this book mainly include health professionals who are engaged with the care of cancer patients *e.g.* physicians, nurses, psychologists etc. as well as students in the fields of medicine, nursing, psychology or social work. The contents can be also useful for health economists and health policy makers. It is essential to remember that health outcomes – specifically health – related quality of life are a very important tool for the evaluation of health policies.

**Reference**

1. Tavoli A, Montazeri A, Roshan R, et al. Depression and quality of life in cancer patients with and without pain: the role of pain beliefs. *BMC Cancer* 2008;8:177.

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