



Depression in Cancer Patients: A Critical Review

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Abstract

Cancer patients experience several stressors and emotional upheavals. Fear of death, interruption of life plans, changes in body image and self-esteem, changes in social role and lifestyle are all important issues to be faced. Moreover, depressive disorders may impact the course of the disease and compliance. The cost and prevalence, the impairment caused and the diagnostic and therapeutic uncertainty surrounding depressive symptoms among cancer patients make these conditions a priority for research. In this article we discuss recent data, focusing on detection of depressive disorders, biological correlates, treatments and unmet needs of depressed cancer patients.

Keywords: Depressive Disorders, Cancer Patients, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Play Therapy, Self-Control.

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