

Is Primary Caregivers' Satisfaction with Home Palliative Care of Patients with Cancer Associated with Caregiving Outcomes?

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Background: Caregivers' satisfaction is an important quality indicator of palliative care provision. The aim of this study was to describe the primary caregivers' satisfaction with home palliative care of patients with cancer and to explore the association of their satisfaction with caregiving outcomes.

Methods: The study took place at the only Palliative Care service providing home care to adult cancer patients in Greece. Eighty two (N=82) primary caregivers of newly - admitted patients, during the 2nd to 3rd week of care completed a) a demographic and clinical form, b) the Famcare Scale c) and the validated in Greek Bakas Caregiving Outcomes Scale. The Famcare is a 20 five-point Likert type items instrument measuring the satisfaction of patient's family divided into 4 subscales (Information, Availability of care, Psychosocial, and Physical patient care). The instrument was tested in a pilot study (Cronbach's $\alpha=0.914$). The Bakas Caregiving Outcomes Scale is a 15 seven-point Likert type items instrument measuring family burden of patients care.

Caregivers' Demographics Data		
	Frequency (N=82)	Percentage (%)
Sex		
Female	61	74.4
Male	21	25.6
Age (mean \pm SD) (range) (years)		
	55.0 \pm 15.5	(19-82)
Family Status		
Married	63	76.8
Single	8	9.8
Divorced	6	7.3
Windowed	5	6.1
Patient's Relationship		
Spouse	35	42.7
Daughter	19	23.2
Mother	13	15.9
Other	15	18.2
Occupation		
Housekeeping	32	39.0
Pensioner	17	20.7
Unemployed	12	14.6
Employed	11	13.4
Other	10	12.3

Patients' Demographics & Clinical Data			
	Frequency (N=82)	Percentage (%)	
Sex			
Female	42	51.2	
Male	40	48.8	
Age (mean \pm SD) (range) (years)			
	68.6 \pm 17.5	(40-90)	
Cancer Diagnosis			
Breast	17	20.7	
Lung	16	19.5	
Intestinal	15	18.3	
Urologic	10	12.2	
Multiple myeloma	7	8.5	
Head & Neck	6	7.3	
Other	11	13.5	
PPS Score			
Mean Score (mean \pm SD) (range)	46.7 \pm 18.3	(20-90)	
Stable	16	19.5	
Unstable	35	42.7	
Terminal	31	37.8	

SD Standard Deviation

In univariate analysis no associations were found between caregiver's and patient's demographic & patient's clinical data and caregivers responses of satisfaction of Famcare Information and Physical Care Subscales. Multivariate analysis showed that only patient's functional status (PPS) was an independent prognostic factor of caregivers satisfaction of Famcare Psychosocial and Availability of Care Subscales. The lowest the patients' functional status the highest the caregivers satisfaction of psychosocial care and availability with home palliative care.

Linear Regression Analysis Model: Total Famcare Score					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	
(Constant)	1.34	0.71		7.30	0.062
ECOG Status	-0.011	0.075	-0.029	2.14	0.887
PPS Status	-0.002	0.001	-0.096	-6.27	0.169
Caregiver's age	0.11	0.114	0.029	0.097	0.923

R²=10.7

Linear Regression Analysis Model: Famcare Availability of Care Subscale Score					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	
(Constant)	2.54	0.79		3.21	0.002
ECOG Status	-0.057	0.083	-0.159	-0.69	0.492
PPS Status	-.007	0.001	-0.363	-4.63	>0.001
Patient's age	>.0001	0.003	0.017	0.18	0.860

R²=16.6

Linear Regression Analysis Model: Famcare Psychosocial Care Subscale Score					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	
(Constant)	2.56	0.41		6.18	>0.001
ECOG Status	0.002	0.072	0.005	0.03	0.975
PPS Status	-.002	0.001	-0.089	-1.69	0.095
Patient's age	.0002	0.002	0.067	1.29	0.200
Caregiver's age	.0001	0.001	0.031	0.54	0.588

R²=11.6

Caregivers' Responses Regarding their Satisfaction with Patient's Palliative Home Care

	Mean \pm SD
Total Famcare Score (1-5)	4.7 \pm 0.4
Famcare Subscales Score (1-5)	
Psychosocial Care	4.8 \pm 0.4
Information	4.7 \pm 0.4
Availability of Care	4.6 \pm 0.3
Physical Care	4.6 \pm 0.4

Higher scores represent higher satisfaction

The caregivers reported good adaptational caregiving outcomes measured by Bakas Caregiving Outcomes Scale: Mean \pm SD 58.0 \pm 15.8 range 15-105

Correlation of Caregivers' Responses Regarding their Satisfaction with Patient's Palliative Home Care with Caregiving Outcomes

	Total Bacas Caregiving Outcomes Scale Score (N=82)
Total Famcare Score	rho=-0.09, p=0.411
Famcare Subscales Score	
Psychosocial Care	rho=0.03, p=0.400
Information	rho=-0.05, p=0.320
Availability of Care	rho=-0.17, p=0.070
Physical Care	rho=-0.09, p=0.411

Conclusions: This study is the first exploring the satisfaction of caregivers with home palliative care of cancer patients in Greece. Despite that caregivers were very satisfied with patients' care, further investigation is needed to explore other factors associated with their satisfaction.