SUMMARY / ABSTRACT


Psychological implications as in etiology as in therapeutic cancer are arousing an increasing interest, originating studies and researches. The patient’s way to deal with the illness, his self-perception for bad or wellbeing seems to contribute for biologic evolution of the disease becoming a therapeutic co-factor. So, the Quality of Life evaluation has been added to clinic studies togheter the effectiveness and safety of the treatment. Searching for approaching to the Quality of Life concept and the understanding of the phenomenon “having cancer” this study was presented in a methodological course embracing quantitative and qualitative aspects. On the first stage it was applied a Quality of Life evaluation instrument developed by The World Health Organization – WHOQOL-bref. The investigation was carried out with 50 female and male adult patients engaged in treatment of different types of cancer in the Oncology Center of Hospital Municipal Dr.Mário Gatti, in Campinas/SP and with 70 control-volunteers, inhabitant in the same city. The groups didn’t show differences statistically significant in relation to psychological aspects, satisfaction with health and Quality of Life. On the second stage 15 new patients in treatment were interviewed. Based in a phenomenological qualitative methodology, it started from guided questions like: “What does Quality of Life mean for you?” and “What is your life like?”. Studying the answers, 5 themes came up for the first question – Quality of Life meaning: 1) Health; 2) To have financial autonomy and basic necessities satisfaction; 3)To live well in affective dimension; 4) Care and 5) An extensive concept. Concerning to the second question, 11 themes were found. They were gathered together into 3 categories involving past, present and future dimensions of the interviewers’life. After this analysis, it was effectuated a comprehensive synthesis of the results and a approach between the both used methods. In the final considerations the studied aspects are discussed, as well as the role of Psychology aiming at a better attendance in this area.

Key words: 1) Cancer; 2) Psycho-Oncology; 3) Quality of Life; 4) Phenomenology.