

EDITORIAL

PALLIATIVE CARE : A NEW SPECIALTY ?

<http://www.lebanesemedicaljournal.org/articles/56-2/editorial.pdf>



PAIN RELIEF AND PALLIATIVE CARE GROUP

TREATMENT aims to cure disease, prolong life, and improve the quality of remaining life after the diagnosis of cancer or other disease is confirmed by the appropriate available procedures.

PALLIATIVE CARE is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing life-threatening illness by providing pain relief and management of other distressing and debilitating symptoms. Palliative care services are appropriate from the time of diagnosis of a life-threatening illness and throughout the course of the illness ; it meets the needs of all patients requiring relief from symptoms, and the needs of patients and their families for psychosocial and supportive care. This is particularly true when patients are in advanced stages and have a very low chance of being cured, or when they are facing the terminal phase of the disease.

Even with late stage cancer, the suffering of patients can be relieved with good palliative care

Preliminary estimates by the World Health Organization (2005) show that each year, 4.8 million people who suffer from moderate to severe pain caused by cancer do not receive treatment.

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE LEBANESE MEDICAL JOURNAL was made possible thanks to the contribution of most of the members of the Pain Relief and Palliative Care Group created under the auspices of the Lebanese Cancer Society. We tried to cover most of the topics related to pain relief and palliative and end-of-life care including the different steps already achieved to initiate this new specialty in the country, and the next steps to undertake in the fields of education, legislation, organization, economy, and advocacy to make this implementation definitive and fruitful.

Everyone has a right to be treated, and die, with dignity. The relief of pain – physical, emotional, spiritual and social – is a human right

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