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AML patients' needs: qualitative study

Acute Leukemia Patients' Needs: Qualitative Findings and Opportunities for Early Palliative Care

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Abstract:

Background and Objective: Patients with acute leukemias likely have needs that palliative care can respond to, yet little is known about specific challenges they face, particularly during active treatment. We examined acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients' expressed challenges and supports following intensive induction chemotherapy. We aimed to understand opportunities for palliative care interventions in this population.

Methods: A qualitative study of AML patients with high-risk disease at Duke University Hospital, Durham, NC. Patients were interviewed about care experiences approximately 3 months after treatment initiation. Multiple coders used descriptive content analysis to identify common and recurrent themes.

Results: We analyzed 22 patient transcripts. Sample demographics included: 10 (45.5%) females, 12 (54.5%) males, mean age 62 (SD 10.9), 19 (86.4%) non-Hispanic white, and 3 (13.6%) non-white/non-Hispanic. All had high-risk disease, by age, relapse status, or molecular markers. We identified 4 themes in our analysis:

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