Hope in Cancer: Concept Analysis

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Background: Cancer diagnosis and treatment is considered a life threatening and frustrated life event. Hope is an important and essential concept during cancer treatment. Hope as a concept is considered highly individualized and complicated.

Aim: The purpose of this concept analysis is to (1) Identify current theoretical and operational definitions that are used to define and measure hope among cancer patients, (2) Identify the state of the science and relevant uses of concept of hope, and (3) Determine critical attributes of hope in the context of QOL for patients with cancer. Method: Intensive literature review of previous published articles was conducted using the MEDLINE, CINAHL, and PsycINFO online databases. Hope and quality of life (QOL) in cancer were used as essential key words. Results: the results identified several antecedents for the hope including Spiritual beliefs/ practice, Provider Communication, Perceived Support, Perceived disclosure diagnosis, Health Locus Control, Pain, Psychological aspects (self-esteem), Uncertainty, and Sence of Coherence (SOC), in addition, the numerous critical attributes were identified including Optimism, Goal-Directed determination and ability to generate plans to achieve goals, and Positive expectation, moreover Coping, QOL and Resilience were identified as consequences for the hope in cancer.

Discussion and Conclusions: Concept analysis is an effective strategy that identifies the attributes or characteristics of a concept. Findings from this analysis indicate that hope is a human phenomenon with no sharp boundaries. Hope is a complex concept because of its contribution to other concepts and various definitions that used in general for all patients without specify definition for cancer patients.

Keywords- Hope, Quality of life, Cancer