

Family Caregivers' Experiences through Terminal Patient with Cancer

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Purpose : The Purpose of this study is to understand the meaning and the essence of suffering as view point and to find the meaning and structure of the experience from family caregivers with patients in their terminal stages of cancer.

Method : This Research used ethnographic methodology by Spradly. The period of data collection was from February to April of 2005. data collection was conducted by open-ended and audio-taped interviews. The participants were 4 caregivers who were willing to take part in this study.

Results : on the basis of these data, care givers were evolved through cyclic stage.

- 1) In the beginning of treatment of cancer, they do their best and the family members support each other
- 2) As time goes by, the family caregivers are exhausted
- 3) The caregivers come into conflict with their family members
- 4) The stress from caregiving caused many problems among family members
- 5) After the death the caregivers regret the affairs during the patient being alive, the other hand they feel free from the hard time with the patient.

Conclusion :

- 1) Their burden and role satisfaction effect on the quality of life of caregivers' with terminal patient of cancer
- 2) Social support must be provided for caregivers
- 3) Hospice nursing care must be provided in the community
- 4) The caregivers need not only family interpersonal network but also volunteers.