

Abstract

The master's thesis deals with the topic of the use of psychotherapy in the field of palliative care provided to adult clients. The theoretical part presents the current conception of care for the dying and defines the field of palliative care, including its availability. Attention is also paid to the characteristics of palliative care recipients, where the behavior and experiencing of terminally ill patients are outlined using models depicting the process of dying. This is followed by the definition of palliative psychotherapy together with a description of its involvement amongst other forms of support for the dying patients. At the end of the theoretical part there are presented structured psychotherapeutic interventions focusing on work with terminally ill clients, including information considering their effectiveness and possible application.

The empirical part of the thesis consists of qualitative research of the psychotherapeutic process in working with adult dying clients from the perspective of palliative psychologists and psychotherapists. The informations obtained from semistructured interviews are processed with the method of thematic analysis. Outputs reflect the experiences of respondents coping with the difficulties of a palliative environment such as lack of time, unstructured setting, limitations in communication or difficult goals setting. Therefore, this research clarifies the specific way of psychotherapeutic work with the dying patients.

Keywords:

palliative care, psychotherapy, psychologist, psychotherapeutic intervention, terminal stage