

Abstract

In healthcare the role of psychologist and the possibility of using psychological intervention in somatic wards is still a rather utopian idea. The role of the psychologist and its use in the care of terminally ill patients is perceived in similar inaccurate way. This bachelor's thesis describes the process, which patients go through, when coping with terminal illness and factors that affect this process. The aim of this work is to point out the importance of psychosocial needs and outline the ways in which psychologist can contribute to the improvement of psychotherapeutic care in palliative medicine.

The thesis is divided into two main parts – literary overview and empirical. The first chapter is devoted to death, the perception of death and its definition from a historical and current point of view, including its typology. The second chapter follows up the process of dying, its conceptual definition and individual phases of dying. The third chapter mentions two main models of dying and the possibilities and types of palliative and hospice care. The fourth chapter is devoted to the needs, wishes and rights of the dying. The fifth chapter describes the process of coping with terminal illness and the factor influencing this process. This chapter also mentions the Kübler-Ross model, also known as the five stages of grief. The sixth chapter is devoted to the spectrum of reactions patients may experience when coping with terminal prognosis. In the seventh chapter, the thesis outlines the role of the psychologist in the care of terminally ill patients and mentions other possibilities of his use in palliative medicine. Finally, in the eight-chapter, specific types of psychological interventions are introduced.

The empirical part presents a research project proposal. The aim of the project is to map the current situation in the providing psychological care and fulfilling psychosocial needs in the sanatoriums of long term diseased from the perspective of medical staff and terminally ill patients.

Key words

Psychosocial needs

Terminal illness

Palliative medicine

Psychological interventions