

Workshop on Palliative Care for The Cancer Patients (MECC)

Current Status of Palliative Care in Jordan

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Dr. Suha Omran

Palliative care is sometimes described as a new specialty. In fact, it is probably the oldest of all medical specialties. In essence, palliative care is primarily concerned with quality of life; it is directed toward active treatment that is designed to ensure that enable end encourage patients to live their lives to the greatest possibility.

In Jordan, a great support is directed to the establishment of palliative care and pain management care programs in King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) in which they provide oncology unit staff to train nurses at Al-Basheer hospital. Another organization that offer palliative care to patients and families through a multidisciplinary team is Al-Malath Foundation for Humanistic Care (MFHC). This organization provide services through nurse coordinated hospice team that enable families to provide care for patients at home.

King Abdullah University Hospital (KAUH) is the largest referral teaching hospital in Irbid, the largest city in the northern part of Jordan. They had an outpatient chemotherapy and an oncology unit with 16 beds, and they are in the process of opening palliative care units.

The outcome of this support to palliative care is the establishment of the Jordan Relief and Palliative Care Initiative which aims at relieving pain and provide care to all people living with cancer and other diseases in Jordan.

We must not forget the importance of supporting and developing education and research in all disciplines. University courses should be developed in collaboration with service providers to meet the needs of staff wishing to acquire different levels of academic education.

Developing a nursing practice development unit in each specialist palliative care unit. And the application of research findings encourages the growth and development of a specialty and highly critical in advancing specialty in palliative care services. I think that the success in palliative care can be enhanced if we all learn to recognize and respond to all complex and challenging needs our palliative care patients and their families, in the hope that all health providers in their different setting to provide a level and a quality of services that both reflects and defines best practice in palliative care.