Factors Related to Time to Definite Diagnosis in Bladder Cancer Patients

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Abstract

Purpose: The present study was aimed at investigating the relationships between perceived severity of bladder cancer, knowledge of bladder cancer, fear caused by abnormal symptoms of bladder cancer, social support and time to definite diagnosis in bladder cancer patients.

Design: A descriptive correlational study design.

Methods: The sample consisted of 90 bladder cancer patients at every stage of the disease, both males and females, who sought treatment at the urology outpatient and inpatient departments of a hospital. Data were collected using the demographic characteristics interview, illness data, time to definite diagnosis, perceived severity of bladder cancer, knowledge of bladder cancer, fear of abnormal symptoms of bladder cancer, and social support. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Spearman’s rank correlation.

Main findings: Time to definite diagnosis with urologists ranged from one day to 1,460 days, with the mean of 183.72 days (SD = 281.99), and the median of 60 days. Perceived severity of bladder cancer was associated with time to definite diagnosis in bladder cancer patients with statistical significance (rₛ = - .49, p < .01). Finally, knowledge of bladder cancer patients was negatively related to time to definite diagnosis with statistical significance (rₛ = - .42, p < .01), but fear of abnormal symptoms of bladder cancer and social support were not related to time to definite diagnosis.

Conclusion and recommendations: Based on the study findings, it is recommended that nurses and healthcare personnel should widely disseminate knowledge and advice on bladder cancer and its severity to encourage shorter time to definite diagnosis and treatment.

Keywords: bladder cancer, perceived severity, social support, time to diagnosis