

SUMMARY

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The Role of Social Support in the Process of Adaptation to Life of People with Cancerous Illnesses

The factors influencing the success of the treatment include not only the medical procedures but also a whole range of positive influences on the psyche of a human being whose "condition" relies to a great extent on the quality of their relationship with the people from their immediate circle of social support. It is the sense of security, closeness and love received from the people who support them, mainly from their circle of family and friends that gives the patients the strength and will to fight this serious disease as well as lets them adjust to new and difficult conditions of everyday life. Therefore it is a global approach to chronic illnesses that conditions the success of the treatment and determines the spectrum of therapeutic help aimed at patient's recovery or improvement of the quality of their life. The aim of this research was an attempt at establishing a connection between the psychosocial adjustment and the social support of the people with cancerous illnesses. The aim was achieved thanks to the testing of two groups: population of people with cancer (40 subjects) and the population of healthy people (40 subjects) with the help of research tools such as: Adjustment Reactions Questionnaire (H. Livenah, R. Antonak), Social Support Questionnaire (J.S Norbeck), Reintegration to Normal Life Questionnaire and Survey Questionnaire.