Palliative Care in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: The Case for Early Integration

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Abstract

Introduction
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a devastating, incurable disease, and is the only major worldwide cause of mortality that is currently increasing in prevalence. These patients experience significant symptom burden that would often benefit from a palliative approach to care.**Objectives**:This review investigated differences in palliative care between patients with COPD and other illnesses, as well as possible explanations for these differences. We also searched for innovative models of palliative care provision that may address any identified gaps for COPD patients.**Methods:**MedLINE and PubMed databases were searched for relevant articles using terms *palliative care, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,* and *integrat*,* and additional relevant articles were identified through the references of chosen articles.**Results:**Compared to cancer patients, COPD patients experience similar symptom burden and have a worse quality of life, but have comparatively little access to palliative care. When these patients do receive palliative care, they tend to be referred later than patients with cancer. Many disease-, patient-, and provider-related factors contribute to this phenomenon. Integrated models of palliative care introduce palliative care early in the disease trajectory. Successful implementation of such a model will require education of healthcare professionals and the general public, increased acceptability of advanced care planning discussions, and likely increased funding.**Conclusion:**Patients with COPD often have unaddressed palliative care needs. Integrated models of palliative care would address many of the barriers these patients experience, but cultural shifts in perceptions of palliative care are required before these models can achieve their potential.

Recent Publications

Senderovich H, Sivarajini R. . A Systematic Review of the Integration of Palliative Care in Dementia Management.Palliative & Supportive Care Journal, Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-12, November, 2019

Senderovich H, Grewal J, Mujtaba M. Herpes zoster vaccination efficacy in the long-term care facility population: a qualitative systematic review.Current Medical Research & Opinion Journal, Volume 35, Issue 8, March 2019

Senderovich H, Khani E.G. The role of Bile Acid Sequestrant in diarrhea management. Too good to be true? Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology , Volume 2, No.3:19, September, 2018

Senderovich H, Justin Yewman Chow. It's Time to Talk: Challenges in Providing Integrated Palliative Care in Advanced Congestive Heart Failure,Current Cardiology Reviews Journal, Volume 8, No.0, January, 2018

Senderovich H., Lilly E. J.. **Palliative Care in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease** Department of Family and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**.** Journal of Critical Care, Volume 35,150-154,October 2016.

Biography



Dr. Senderovich is a physician at Baycrest with practice focused on Palliative Care, Pain Medicine and Geriatrics. She is an Assistant professor at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Division of Palliative Care at the University of Toronto who actively involved teaching medical students and residents. She has a broad international experience and a solid research background. Her research was accepted nationally and internationally. She is an author of multiple manuscripts and books focused on geriatrics, patient's centered care, ethical and legal aspect of doctor patient relationship, palliative and end-of-life care.

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