
ABSTRACT

An approach to the counseling of terminal cancer patients and their surviving family members: Practice of a way of staying near the patients psychologically

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This illustrative case shows how we provided support for a patient with terminal cancer, as well as for the bereaved family. Such patients do not have sufficient time for the conventional forms of psychological intervention because of extensive medical treatment and the short term before their death. It is critical to understand the importance of “creating a psychological bond that supports the patient by staying near the patient psychologically.” The author emphasizes the changes in the therapist’s attitude, depending on the therapeutic stage, such as during the beginning of the interview period of patients in a relatively stable condition, at the time of exacerbation of the cancer, during the terminal phase and grief care. This involves building a psychological bond and support. In addition, grief care is focused on the wishes of the person who died. Through this process, the patients can express their true wishes, come to terms with their life, and the bereaved can accept their passing. Herein, we discuss our actual methods for building a psychological bond that supports the cancer patient.

Key Words: terminal cancer, staying near the patients psychologically, grief care
