

**Abstract**

**Original Article**

**Depression, Pain and Mental State in Cancer Patients**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Depression in cancer patients is a common psychiatric disorder with impact on the quality of life. This study investigated the association of depression with health status and cognitive function of cancer patients, along with the pain impact and the need for analgetics.

**Methodology:** One hundred cancer patients were enrolled in the study. The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ – 28), the Dysfunctional Preconception Questionnaire (DPQ), the MMSE Scale (Mini Mental State Examination) and the Depression scale-Beck questionnaire (BDI) were used.

**Results:** Depression in cancer patients is moderate and mental condition satisfactory. The administration of analgesics was associated with greater social dysfunction, higher depression score and lower cognitive performance. GHQ score was statistically significantly related to BDI score in both males and females (  $p=0.004$  and  $p<0.001$ , respectively).

**Conclusion:** General health status in cancer patients is associated with depression and need for analgetics. There is a necessity of using self-report questionnaires in oncology patients for the appropriate assessment of their mental and psychological status.

**Key words:** cancer, depression, mental, perceptions, cognitions, comorbidity