THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND LIFE SATISFACTION IN PATIENTS WITH LUNG CANCER.

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The aim was the evaluation of the life satisfaction (LS) and relation on the quality of life(QoL), the symptoms of the disease and illness acceptance in patients with lung cancer.

Methods: The Satisfaction with Life Scale(SWLS) and the EORTC C30 questionnaire for the QoL and symptoms of illness.

Material: 257 patients, (115 women), with lung cancer treated in Pulmonary Diseases Center (mean age 63±9.37) were divided into three groups depending on the life satisfaction: group A-lower LS (27.2%), group B-moderate LS (43.9%) and group C -high LS (28.8%).

Results: Comparative analysis revealed the significant relationship between life satisfaction and QoL and symptoms of illness. The patients with high life satisfaction had better QoL in all the functioning domains (general QoL 52.3 vs 37.8 vs 35.2; physical 78.5 vs 67.9 vs 61.4; life 80.4 vs 58.8 vs 47.3; emotional 79.2 vs 50.6 vs 41.5; cognitive 86.2 vs 72.4 vs 63.2; social 86.4 vs 57.08 vs 51.9; p<0.001) and less symptoms (fatigue 27.6 vs 50.2 vs 55.1; nausea/vomiting 6.9 vs 20.5 vs 24.01; pain 22.5 vs 43.07 vs 50; dyspnoe 31.9 vs 47.2 vs 50 and sleep disturbance 25.7 vs 46.3 vs 60.9; p<0.001). Similar relationship was showed in illness acceptation level: the higher life satisfaction the better acceptation of illness (33.3 vs 24.1 vs 22.6; p<0.001).

Conclusions. Patients with lung cancer present moderate satisfaction with life, regardless of the disease stage. Higher life satisfaction are correlated with a higher QoL and better perceived illness acceptance and lower level of symptoms