

HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

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Abstract: *Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is one of the leading causes of cancer death. We conducted a retrospective study in a hospital-based palliative care for 62 patients with HCC (69.3% male, all older than 50yr. 76.7% married) who were followed in General Hospital Uzice, between of June 2000. to December 2015. The most common symptoms of HCC patients were pain, fatigue, weakness, anorexia, vomiting, peripheral edema, cachexia, and ascites. Hypoalbuminemia, anemia, hyponatremia and jaundice were common laboratory abnormalities. Upper gastrointestinal bleeding or varices bleeding developed in 50 (80.6%) patients . Fifty-eight (93.5%) patients died at the hospital. Median hospitalization was 42 days. In conclusion, symptoms and signs of terminal phase of HCC patients are unique and should be managed appropriately.*

Keywords: *hepatocellular carcinoma, hospital, palliative care*