

Chinese oncologists' knowledge, attitudes and practice towards palliative care and end of life issues.

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Background: To give effective and targeted education for oncologists, their knowledge and attitudes should be highlighted first. The study intended to provide a descriptive analysis of oncologists' knowledge, attitudes and practice toward palliative care (PC) and end of life (EOF) issues in Mainland China.

HYPOTHESIS: This study shown Chinese oncologists' insufficient knowledge toward PC and related issues. Oncologists' education on PC urgently needs more attention in Mainland China.

Methods: The questionnaire survey with 24 items investigating oncologists' demographic information, knowledge and attitudes toward PC and end of life issues was conducted among Chinese Oncology clinicians.

Results: The participants had been in practice for a mean of 10.10 years in oncology, 42.7% had more than 10 years of oncological experience. 43 (31.2%) participants had received PC education experience obviously. 73.9% participants believed that PC should be considered when patients can not undertake surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and other anti-cancer therapy. 72.5% believed that early PC integration can improve patients' quality of life. Although, most of the oncology clinicians (73.9%) believed that the doctor-in-charge was the appropriate one to inform the patient of the diagnosis. Only 11 participants chose to inform the diagnosis and prognosis to the patients first, whereas 39.9% of the participants chose to disclose it to Family/Caregivers first. Chinese oncologists were largely unfamiliar with the concepts of euthanasia and related issues.