Pain-Related Distress and Interference With Daily Life of Ambulatory Patients With Cancer With Pain

Nancy Wells, DNSc, RN, Barbara Murphy, MD, Debra Wujcik, MSN, RN, AOCN®, and Rolanda Johnson, PhD, RN

Pain-related distress plays an important role in interference with daily life.

Pain has a significant impact on physical and emotional well-being in patients with cancer.

Higher pain intensity, pain-related distress, inadequately prescribed analgesics, and negative mood are related to interference with daily life because of pain.

Pain-related distress plays an important role in interference with daily life.

Patients with cancer experience numerous symptoms related to their disease and its treatment. Symptom experiences may be defined as the perception (Rhodes & Watson, 1987) and labeling of unusual sensations (Leventhal & Diefenbach, 1992). Symptom experiences can be approached from a purely biomedical perspective, where symptoms signal the presence of disease or adverse effects of its treatment. This approach, however, fails to recognize that symptoms are more than physical manifestations of biologic processes. Symptoms have profound secondary effects on emotional, social, and spiritual well-being (Cella, 1994; Ferrell, 1995; Wells, 1998). In addition, symptoms affect a patient’s ability to perform daily activities. Thus, a multidimensional assessment of pain that includes physical and emotional well-being is required to

Key Points...

- Pain has a significant impact on physical and emotional well-being in patients with cancer.
- Higher pain intensity, pain-related distress, inadequately prescribed analgesics, and negative mood are related to interference with daily life because of pain.
- Pain-related distress plays an important role in interference with daily life.

Goal for CE Enrollees:

To further enhance nurses’ knowledge regarding pain-related distress and interference with daily life in ambulatory patients with cancer with pain.

Objectives for CE Enrollees:

On completion of this CE, the participant will be able to:

1. Discuss the significant impact of pain on physical and emotional well-being in patients with cancer.
2. Describe how higher pain intensity, pain-related distress, inadequately prescribed analgesics, and negative mood are related to interference with daily life because of pain.
3. Discuss the important role that pain-related distress plays in interference with daily life.