Numerous investigators have reported that patients with cancer have many psychosocial concerns, such as intrapsychic (e.g., anger, fear of dying), interpersonal (e.g., loneliness, communication with family and friends), and social concerns (e.g., isolation, stigma caused by cancer) (Cella & Yellen, 1993). However, most investigators who studied psychosocial group interventions for patients with cancer have focused on improving anxiety, depression, and coping behaviors. Published meta-analyses and review articles express clear attention has been paid to demonstrating the effects of improving these concerns as research outcomes.

Loneliness is one of the major psychosocial concerns among patients with cancer. Several investigators have observed that many patients suffer from loneliness associated with illness or illness-related situations (Cuevas-Renaud, Sobrevilla-Calvo, & Almanza, 2000; Fox, Harper, Hyner, & Lyle, 1994; Friedman, Florian, & Zernitsky-Shurka, 1989; Perry, 1990). Researchers have reported that group interventions are important for people who are suffering from loneliness (Keel-Card, Foxall, & Barron, 1993; Kim, 1999; Koopman, Hermanson, Diamond, Angell, & Spiegel, 1998; Prince, Trijsburg, Van Knippenberg, & Rijpma, 1992). Despite the recognized presence of various psychosocial concerns, little attention has been paid to demonstrating the effects of improving these concerns as research outcomes.

Loneliness is one of the major psychosocial concerns among patients with cancer. Several investigators have observed that many patients suffer from loneliness associated with illness or illness-related situations (Cuevas-Renaud, Sobrevilla-Calvo, & Almanza, 2000; Fox, Harper, Hyner, & Lyle, 1994; Friedman, Florian, & Zernitsky-Shurka, 1989; Perry, 1990). Researchers have reported that group interventions are important for people who are suffering from loneliness (Keel-Card, Foxall, & Barron, 1993; Kim, 1999; Koopman, Hermanson, Diamond, Angell, & Spiegel, 1998; Prince, Trijsburg, Van Knippenberg, & Rijpma, 1992).

Few studies have been designed to investigate the effect of psychological group intervention in randomized trials on loneliness and social support among patients with cancer.