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学位の種類	博士 (医学)
報告番号	甲第1452号
学位記番号	第1039号
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授与年月日	平成 26年 7月 29日
学位論文の題名	Characteristics of elderly cancer patients' concerns and their quality of life in Japan: A web-based survey (日本の高齢がん患者のニーズと QOL との関係 : ウェブ調査) Jpn J Clin Oncol. (accept for publication)
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**Title: Characteristics of elderly cancer patients' concerns and their quality of life
in Japan: A web-based survey**

ABSTRACT

Cancer incidence and the number of cancer patients are increasing in today's aging society (1, 2). As the average life expectancy increases, the elderly population is growing, with the result that the number of older cancer patients is increasing. The purpose of this study was to investigate the characteristics of elderly cancer patients' concerns, to compare elderly with younger cancer patients' concerns to clarify the characteristics of the elderly, and to examine the association between their concerns and quality of life (QOL).

This was a cross-sectional web-based survey completed by ambulatory cancer patients aged 20 years or older. The questionnaire on cancer patients' concerns, Comprehensive Concerns Assessment Tool (CCAT), and the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer QLQ-C30 were distributed to the subjects. Multiple regression analysis was conducted to determine which patients' concerns significantly contributed to their QOL.

The final study population consisted of 807 cancer patients, among whom 243

(30%) were elderly (65 years or older). Elderly cancer patients had particular difficulty with Self-management, Psychological symptoms, and Medical information, and the prevalence of their concerns was generally lower than that of younger patients, with the exception of Physical symptoms. Multiple types of elderly patients' concerns were independently associated with QOL.

We found that elderly cancer patients suffered from various concerns, thus multidisciplinary intervention is important for providing them with optimal care. The results of this study suggest that elderly cancer patients' QOL will improve if their concerns are properly handled.

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2. Balducci L, Beghe C. Cancer and age in the USA. *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol* 2001;37:137–45.