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Al-Quds University**



**Quality of Life among Children with
Cancer in Gaza Strip**

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Quality of Life among Children with Cancer in Gaza Strip

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Dedication

To my Father, who tirelessly struggled against the hurdles of this world, just to see his son attain the greatest gift of all.

To my world to my mother to whom I owe my life and success.

To my Wife, who kindly, remained by my side, with unending love, being patient, motivation and supporting.

To my sister for supporting me.

To my kids (Riad, Elaine, & Jwan) for their encouraging smiles.

To my friends

To my colleagues

To all children with cancer with my pray for them to (heal) have a good health.

And, to everyone who contributed to make this study a reality, thank you.

Mohammed Riad Abu Reyala

Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master, is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and this study or any its parts has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed:

Mohammed Riad Abu Reyala

Date:...../...../.....

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Abstract

Cancer is considered one of the major health problems worldwide, each year, more than 300,000 children are diagnosed with cancer. However, people now live approximately six times as long after their cancer diagnosis than 40 years ago. This has led to a long-term interest in the quality of life among children cancer survivors. So, the present study was conducted to assess quality of life among children with cancer in Gaza Strip. **Methods:** This descriptive, analytic, cross-sectional study included 122 children with cancer aged between 7 to 18 years. Data collected at El Ranteesy Specialized Pediatric Hospital and European Gaza Hospital. Quality of life data was collected by using the pediatric quality of life inventory (PedsQL 4.0 generic core scale), and pediatric quality of life cancer module scale (PedsQL 3.0 cancer module) to assess health-related quality of life. **Result:** The result showed that the mean percentage of quality of life score was (52.53%). The social function domain got the highest score (60.98%), and the lowest being emotional function domain (47.13%). Moreover, the overall mean percentage of health-related quality of life score was (48.55%). The nausea domain got the highest score (62.37%), and the lowest domain was procedural anxiety (24.38%). Finding showed that there is statistically significant difference between the children's families income regarding quality of life and health-related quality of life (p value = 0.011, 0.014; respectively). Moreover, there was statistically significant difference in the quality of life among children between their different number of family members (p value = 0.010). On the other hand, there is no statistically significant difference in the health-related quality of life among children between their different number of family members (p value = 0.231). **Conclusion:** The study concluded that the children with cancer in Gaza Strip had low level of quality of life and health-related quality of life. Moreover, the study showed that cancer has wide effects on children's ability to fully function in every field of their lives. It affects the physical, mental, school, and social well-being of children. **Recommendation:** In view of significant decrease in the quality of life domains among children with cancer in Gaza Strip, we emphasize on increasing efforts to avoid these negative impacts. This could be achieved by providing psycho-oncology services, enhancing pain management and anxiety reduction measurements, psychosocial support schedule for children and their families. Finally, guiding the society on how children with cancer should be treated through improving awareness and educational campaigns, and encouraging communication skills of healthcare givers.

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List of Abbreviations

EGH: European Gaza Hospital

GS: Gaza Strip

HRQOL: Health- Related Quality of Life

MOH: Ministry Of Health

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organization

PedsQL: Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory

PHC: Primary Health Care

PHIC: Palestinian Health Information Center

PCBS: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

QOL: Quality of Life

RSPH: Ranteesy Specialized Pediatric Hospital

UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency

WB: West Bank

WHO: World Health Organization