



ABSTRACT

Alexithymia among Palestinian Cancer Patients; Prevalence and Risk Factors

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This study aimed to assess the prevalence of Alexithymia among Palestinian cancer patients in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron health care centers. The study approached the literature as a multi-dimensional phenomenon, which addressed both theoretical and applied research. The significance of this recent study is the first, which deal with this theme, to the author's knowledge, which in turn encourages other researchers to work on further research on this important issue.

The study used the quantitative approach, in a cross-sectional study, using the sampling survey method. The questionnaire is appropriate for the exploratory nature of the research. Therefore, three hundred seventy-six cancer patients were stratified calculated and selected using the convenience sampling method. The sample size was calculated using the sampling web of <https://www.idsurvey.com/en/sample-size-calculator/> , sample size calculator, with a margin error of 0.05.

To achieve this end, a 20-item scale was used to measure the prevalence of Alexithymia among Palestinian cancer patients that was developed by the research team, based on Bagby et al. (1994) scale (TAS-20), taking into consideration the cultural appropriateness in the Palestinian society. A 5-point Likert scale (ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree) was used to measure



responses. The collected data were statistically analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

The study found a high level of Alexithymia among Palestinian cancer patients. Moreover, findings showed that gender, qualifications, and marital status do not show any significant differences. While the differences in authority variable were in favor of patients in non-governmental hospitals, as for cancer stage, the differences were in favor of patients in stage three of the disease, and regarding the age variable, the correlation were in an inverse relationship, the lower the age of the cancer patient, the higher level of Alexithymia. The study recommends addressing Alexithymia among cancer patients and training medical staff with communication strategies designed for patients with Alexithymia.