

Knowledge, Perceptions, and Beliefs of Palliative Care by Primary Providers

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Overview

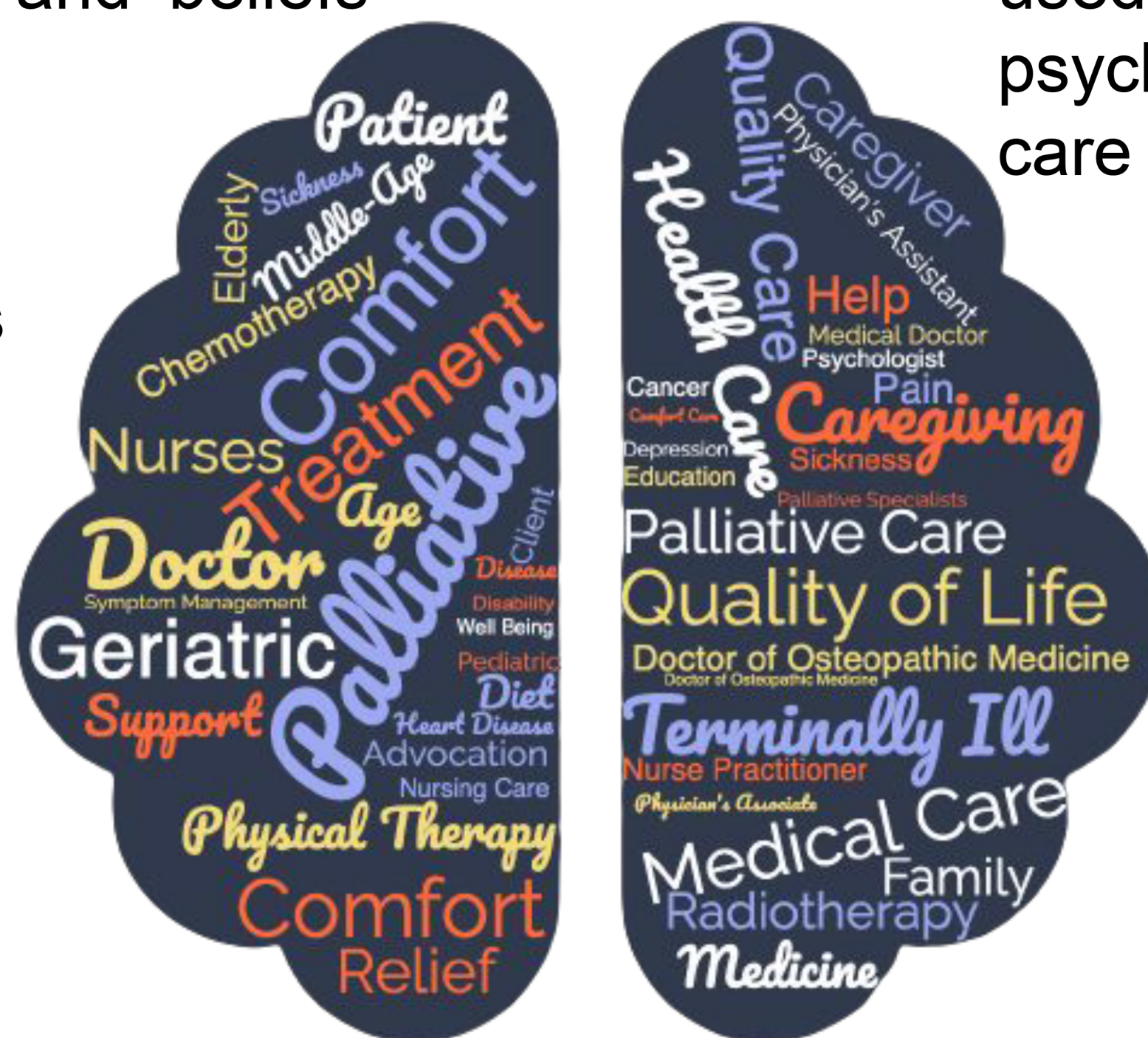
- Palliative Care uses a multidimensional approach to decrease symptom burden and improve the quality of life of patients with serious illness.
- The Center to Advance Palliative Care systematically evaluated each state, and gave Alabama a rating of “D”; This is a rating that places Alabama in the bottom 10% of the United States.
- There are many barriers to palliative care, many of which result in a complete lack of referral.

Research Goals:

- Design and use an exploratory descriptive survey instrument to measure the knowledge, perceptions, and beliefs of healthcare providers.
- Reach approximately 500 participants.
- Identify any additional barriers affecting palliative care referral in Alabama.

Methods

- A survey was drafted with questions based on a literature review, and the opinion of experts in palliative care.
- Participants will be recruited from the Huntsville Health System in North Alabama through convenience sampling.
- The survey is a cross-sectional, exploratory study.
- It consists of 8 questions plus an additional demographics section.
- The electronic survey was employed using Qualtrics and was shared via email with invitation letters, snowballing techniques, and posting an invitation letter with a QR code/link.
- Analysis of the survey results will be used to determine the instrument’s psychometrics, and identify palliative care barriers.



Results

- Current results are pending.
- Final results are expected by December 2023.



Impact

- Identification of any additional barriers to palliative care referral in North Alabama
- Creation of targeted educational programs to address identified barriers to increase referrals to palliative care
- Implementation into already existing continuing education programs for physicians and other primary care providers
- Improvement of palliative care services in Alabama

References:

1. Alabama: Hospital Palliative Care Availability: State by State Report Card. Palliative Care, Report Card. (2020, November 24). <https://reportcard.capc.org/state/alabama/>

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