

## **Living Experiences of People with Cancer**

**Background:** Cancer is a hard disease which affects not only patients but also their families physically and emotionally. The purpose of this study was to identify the experiences of people with cancer.

**Method:** Qualitative method was used. Data were collected through document examining method. This method was preferred because of allowing the researcher to reach a wide sampling. Posts on cancer blog were examined. 54 of 530 posts were about the patients' experiences and emotions. Therefore whole of these posts were taken for the sampling. Content analysis was used.

**Findings:** Data were gathered under two main themes: difficulties and coping. Patients couldn't receive enough support from their relatives after diagnosed with cancer. Patients stated that they have insufficient knowledge about the disease and treatment, and this obscurity cause fear and uncertainty. Most patients indicated they had difficulty in coping with the side effects of chemotherapy as alopecia, nausea and fatigue and these side effects have a negative impact on their social lives. Some patients stated cancer affected their lives positively with gaining positive viewpoint. Patients mentioned about the importance of family members' love and support on coping process. Also patients stated spiritual feelings and religious beliefs are effective way to cope.

**Conclusions:** People with cancer have difficulty in all areas of their lives in the course of the disease and during the treatment process. Therefore, nurses should teach patients how to cope with the new situation and pay attention to the needs of patients and should support them.