

LIFELINE: EXPERIENCES, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND COPING
STRATEGIES OF FAMILIES OF ADULTS WITH
CANCER AT THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

THESIS

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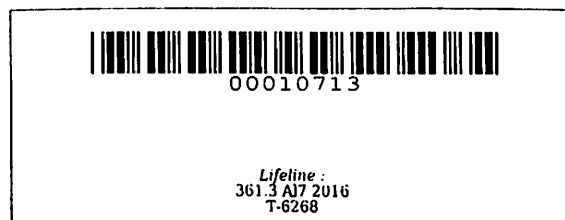
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✓ **LIFELINE: EXPERIENCES, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND COPING STRATEGIES
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AT THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE**

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ABSTRACT

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The study has its purpose of determining the experiences, social support, and coping strategies of the families of adults with cancer at the province of Cavite. The study aimed to determine the experiences of the families on the diagnosis and the treatment of the family member diagnosed with cancer, the groups of people that served as social support and their impact to the well-being of the family, and the Coping Strategies that the families were using to cope up with this phenomenon.

The study was conducted last June 2015 and was completed on January 2016. The participants in the study were family members of the cancer patients (husband, wife, mother, son and daughter). The participants were from the different parts of the province of Cavite.

The researchers utilized Narrative Analysis as the research design of the study. The participants were selected through purposive sampling. As for the research instrument, the researchers created a semi-structured interview guide that generally asks for the experiences, before and after the diagnosis and during the treatment of the patient, the sources of social support, and the coping strategies that the families used.

The results of the study revealed that the families experienced emotional struggles such as shock, worry and fear, and sadness. The families also supplied the emotional support needed by each member of the family by being an inspiration to the patient and by supporting the other family caregivers especially during hard times. Aside from the

emotional factors, the families experienced financial problems because of the costly medical procedures and medications. The results also revealed that the families solved the financial deficits by constricting the budget for other needs of the family, and by collective efforts of family members of the family to supply the financial needs.

The results also revealed that the families of the cancer patients also consulted and asked for help from people outside the circle of family members, and this help is called social support. Social support from family and friends are on the emotional, spiritual, and medical aspects. The medical staff gave emotional and moral support by giving financial considerations. Based on the results, it was not only the groups of people who were directly connected to the family and the patient contributed to the social support for the family, but people considered as acquaintances supported on the financial deficits of the family.

The results also showed the coping strategies that the families used to cope with the situation of having a member diagnosed with cancer. Based on the narratives of the participants, the researchers generated the components of common coping strategies. The following are the primary factors that affected the time span and manner of coping of the families procedure of informing the patient about the sickness; positive outlook of the family and; time and attention that the participants exert into providing care to the patients. The results also revealed some unique coping strategies such as, psychospiritual coping and activity-based coping.

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INTRODUCTION

"A cancer diagnosis can be as overwhelming for your family members and friends as it is for you, possibly changing your relationships in unexpected ways."

- ((ASCO) A. S., 2015)

This goal of this research was to determine the experiences of the families of adults with cancer, the social support that helped the family in adjusting to the situation of having a family member diagnosed with cancer, and the coping strategies that the families used to improve the quality of their lifestyle during the cancer journey of the patient.

Based on the data of WHO (World Health Organization) in their 2009 research, nine (9) people were diagnosed with cancer every hour. This fact made cancer the fourth leading cause of death in the early phase of 2000s. The data also stated the diagnosis and the survival rate were almost the same. Which means that large amount of people diagnosed with cancer could actually die from it. One reason is late detection. Late detection and late action to the sickness could bring negative emotional outcome to the family. It was linked