

Exploring the Current Situation of Cancer Patients' Management from Patients' Perspective: A Multicenter Cross-Sectional Study

Thukaa Abdul Ameer Alshaybaany, BSc, MSc* Basma Zuheir Al-Metwali, PhD**

ABSTRACT

Cancer has grown as a significant condition accountable for a substantial number of fatalities annually across the globe. The cancer burden is globally leveling up, imposing significant physical, emotional, and financial pressures on individuals, families, communities, and healthcare systems. To explore the challenges faced in cancer management from the perspectives of patients in Baghdad & Karbala. A cross-sectional study was performed from November 2024 to February 2025 at the Imam Al-Hussein Center for Cancer and Hematology and Imam Al-Hassan Al-Mujtaba Teaching Hospital in Karbala Governorate, along with Al-Kadhimain Medical City-Al-Jawad Oncology Center in Baghdad Governorate. The convenience sample of Iraqi patients diagnosed with cancer was gathered. Results: Three hundred participants participated in an interviewer-administered questionnaire. The mean age was 54.15±13.48 years, 56.0% were female, and 67.7% were married. The study found that breast cancer was the most frequently diagnosed type among the participants (37.6%). The top four side effects faced by the participants were weakness (92.3%), loss of appetite (86.0%), loss of hair (69.7%), and diarrhea (60.7%). Most of the patients were informed the doctors or nurses (84.3%) when they faced side effects. In addition, the primary means of transportation to the centers was taxis (47.3%). The central place where patients stayed while dealing with cancer was at their homes (87.3%). Other challenges involved not understanding what comes next, not having access to a clean toilet throughout the day, waiting for a long time to be seen by hospital staff, and being afraid of the progression of their disease. Other people often react inconsiderately/unsympathetically, and usually have trouble sleeping. To overcome these limitations, a well-established healthcare infrastructure should be implemented, communication skills should be improved, and multidisciplinary teams should be developed, including oncologists and psychiatric physicians.

Keywords: cancer, patients, challenges, current situation, multicenter.

Bahrain Med Bull 2026; 48 (1): 2906-2913

* Ministry of Health and Environment
Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children
Karbala, Iraq.
Email: zakaa.abd2200@copharm.uobaghdad.edu.iq

** Department of Clinical Pharmacy,
College of Pharmacy, University of Baghdad,
Baghdad, Iraq.