Psychological support and the hope of the lung cancer patients receiving chemotherapy

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<Background>
The incidence of lung cancer in among the Japanese is the second largest among all the incidence of malignant neoplasm (2014). The mortality of male patients of this cancer comes in the first place, and that of female comes in the second place (2014). Even non-small cell lung cancer patients whose cancer cells can be removed, if the cancer is beyond stage I B period, need to go through the chemotherapy after the operation. As a result, the number of lung cancer patients who receive chemotherapy is quite large. And small cell lung cancer patients need to receive chemotherapy. Therefore it is important to clarify the role of the psychological support and their hope when supporting the lung cancer patients who receive chemotherapy.

<Aim>
The aim of this study was to determine the psychological support and the hope of lung cancer patients who receive chemotherapy.

<Method>
Data were collected by semi-structured interviews of seven lung cancer patients who receive chemotherapy and analyzed qualitatively.

<Result>
Their average age was 66.7 years old. Their average years after diagnosis were two years and ten months (Table 1).

The LQV patients were sorted into eight categories: positive attitude, spending valuable time with family, comfortable hospitalization, being helpful to others, being helpful to the health, being willing to be a parent, being willing to live, and being willing to continue working (Table 2).

The ways of psychological support of these patients were divided into 13 categories: women's encouragement, family's company, being helpful to the health, being willing to be a parent, being willing to live, and being willing to continue working.

<Conclusion>
The patients who accepted this study were, during the time of the interview, active at the time of diagnosis was two years and ten months had gone through repeated chemotherapy and they were indeed cancer survivors. Therefore, five out of seven patients had hope. The other patients seemed to have accepted the reality.

The contents of hope differed depending on whether the patients with their family presence or not. The patients with family said they had hope to spend valuable time with family and to fulfill a role as a parent. One patient without family said he had hope to create comfortable hospitalization environment for himself and other patients who suffer from the same disease, and hope to be helpful to other people.

The voices of patients were heard that the psychological support for the lung cancer patients who receive chemotherapy was the support of their wives, who they trust the most: being able to see their wives, their words of encouragement, the gifts they bring, and so on. In addition, enjoyment of the family's company even when they were hospitalized was also quite important: such as talking with them on the telephone, spending time with them, having meals with them, and seeing their children's picture and so on. Thus, it is quite important for hospitals to inform patients' wives of the side effects such as competence, as well as to provide the opportunities for the family to get together.

<Implications for Nursing>
Based on the research findings, I would like to create a brochure for lung cancer patients who receive chemotherapy and their families as a psychological support for patients to receive the treatment and the measures.