

The Effect Of Feeling Hopeful Towards Life Orientation Among Cancer Patients At The Palestine Medical Compound / Ramallah.

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Abstract

The study aimed to know the effect of feeling hopeful in the orientation towards life among cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah. In order to achieve this, the researcher used the Measure of Hope prepared by Snyder and his colleagues (1991), and the Measure of Life Orientation prepared by Scheier and Carver (1985). The two measures were applied on sample the size of which was (200) patients. The results showed that the cancer patients feel hopeful with a medium level, and they enjoy a medium level of life orientation. It was also indicated that there was a positive linear statistically significant relationship between the level of feeling hopeful among cancer patients and the level of their orientation towards life.

The researcher recommended several recommendations, the most important of which is: the necessity of offering psychological support for the cancer patients.

Key Words: Feeling hopeful, Life Orientation, Cancer Patients, Palestine Medical Compound.

Introduction:

Cancer at present is considered among the wide spread diseases, and it has the most effect not only on the patient's life but also on the entire family. Cancer in its different kinds is considered among the diseases which lead to death. This in turn leads to psychological and social effects on the patient and his/her family. It also leads to reactions which are characterized by depression, agitation, constant thinking of death, loss of appetite and lack of desire to carry out daily activities.

In an official statistics by the Palestinian Ministry of Health on the occasion of World Day for cancer in February 2017, it was revealed that the average of infliction with cancer in Palestine amounted to 83.8 new cases for every one hundred thousand people, with a reality of 83.9 new cases for every one hundred thousand people in the Gaza Strip and 83.8 new cases for every one hundred thousand people in the West bank, and that 52.5% of the new cases of cancer which are registered among the Palestinian are females and 47.5% are males (Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2017).

Cancer is a name which includes a group of diseases which are distinguished by the existence of a tumor which is beyond control in the cells. They are small structures from which the organs and tissues in the body are composed. These cells working differently, but they are renewed in a similar way, in order to deal with the damaged tissues or building them. Usually the division in the normal cells is regular and controlled. However, this process in the cancer cells go out of control and it

continues division and increase without stopping. This leads to infliction with cancer (Hourii, 2010:7).

There is a group of factors which help in causing cancer, among which are environmental factors such as exposure to radiations, kind of food and unhealthy nutritional habits. The daily human behaviors also play an important role in the rise of the proportion of being inflicted with cancer such as smoking and alcohol and drugs addiction. Also there are heredity, psychological and social pressures all of which may contribute in weakening the immunity system of man, and subsequently his infliction with a group of diseases among which is cancer (Ballout, 2011).

Also the nature of this disease leads to essential changes on the patient and those who are surrounding him/her. He/she feels anxiety, depression, loss of hope, low self-esteem, feeling pain and suffering from death or losing one of the organs (Al-Bakkoush, 2014). The averages of the spread among the cancer patients reached 58%, while the percentage of anxiety is estimated to be between 15%-28% according to the studies by The European Society for the Tumors Medicine (Barahmiyyeh & Boushlaq, 2016). The positive psychological state of the individual makes him/her tend to optimism, feeling hopeful and delighted. This gives man the ability to confront pressures and to bear the arduous tasks, and makes him have the ability to have the will and self-motivation in order to achieve his goals (Mustafa & Baker, 2014). However, the patients who suffer from the difficulty of treating the disease, an experience of fearing death, loss of meaning, loneliness, and disappointment is generated in them (Kissane et al., 2003).

Despite the scarcity of experimental researches dealing with hope as being a multi-dimensional concept, the importance of feeling hopeful becomes clear through the clinical care of cancer, whereby hope is connected with the psychological state and the bodily performance (Geiser, et al., 2015).

Ericson mentioned that hope is one of the basic characteristics of man which are formed in the early stages of psychological and social development in the life of the child. He considered that hope is the positive result for the crisis of confidence vis-à-vis lack of confidence (Yailagh, et al., 2012). It is one of the basic components in the literature of the positive psychology. It is also a knowledge process which includes how to reach future goals (Bronk, et al., 2009; Blake & Norton, 2014; Snyder, et al., 2002; Bahmani, et al., 2016). For hope is considered as one of the human traits which help the individual to overcome despair in order to achieve his/her goals (Bernardo, 2010), when the circumstances of our life are not satisfactory and include deprivation (MacInnis & Mello, 2005). It is the source of energy in the life of people, and it is an important factor in healing and reinforcing prosperity. For people hope to respond in a more active way upon confronting critical situations, and using more and better strategies for acclimatizing. These knowledge strategies work on correcting different cognitive mistakes which lead to maintain some behaviors sound (Sadeghi, et al., 2015; Bahmani, et al. 2016).

Some studies pointed out that hope is considered as a motivating factor for individuals. It is positively connected with self-respect and the recognized efficiency, while it is negatively connected with depression. The individuals who have high levels of hope are more optimistic and concentrating on success instead of failure, and they are happier and more persistent to achieve the goals (Snyder, et al., 1997; Behnam, et al., 2014). Although these goals might be of short term or of long term, they are deeply rooted in all behaviors. They are considered as the basic support of hope. Individuals having high hopes prefer the long term goals which are more difficult than the goals which were previously achieved (Snyder, et al., 2000; Snyder, et al. 2003). For feeling hopeful is the best belief for reaching a positive result under the pressing circumstances. It is the thing which benefits people in dealing with the problems which are connected with sickness and

getting acclimatized with them (Raheem & Abdul-Hafith, 2015), (Hunsaker, et al.2016). For hope is the belief of the individual in his ability to achieve the goals. This knowledge belief leads to behaviors which are more optimistic, whereby it is indicated that there is a relationship between the optimistic thinking and achievement in the different domains (Margalit & Idan, 2004).

Tiger sees that the mental abilities of the individual are the one which allow him to see things in his life before they occur like death for example. For hope is the source of motion and activity in the individual despite the fear and worry which he/she feels (Judeh & Abu-Jarad, 2011). Hope is also one of the factors in the knowledge adaptation in a chronic illness due to its positive effects in improving the methods of treating the difficult diseases, and it leads to a positive temperament, mental health, and improving the body immunity system (Bahmani, et al., 2016). Some studies emphasized that there is a clear relationship between the healthy results and hope and optimism (Scioli, et al., 1997). These positive meanings indicate welcoming and orientation for life and the real desire to live happily (Ali, 2012).

Orientation to life is a concept which is similar to several concepts such as optimism and satisfaction with life. However, the orientation to life had been defined by Scheier & Carver as being the tendency for optimism or the general expectation of the individual about the occurrence of good things with a bigger degree than the occurrence of bad things. It is a trait which is connected with the good mental health (Abu-Asa'ad, 2010).

The concept of orientation to life is also considered a trait in the character which enjoys a positive subjective vision and a latent preparedness in the individual through which he/she can expect all what is positive in the positive and negative events of life , and this is concerning the current present and the coming future (Saleh, 2013).

Orientation to life is one of the tools of optimism which is defined as being a general expectation of positive results, whereby optimists view the desired goals as being possible to achieve. So activity and perseverance increase in order to achieve these goals (Steca, et al., 2017). Orientation to life aims to develop the intellectual, cultural, knowledge , affective, social, spiritual and bodily development of the individual (Gama, 2015; Jacobs, 2011).

Optimism is considered as one of the personal resources in man whereby he tends towards positive expectations more than negative results (Zenger, et al., 2013). He deals with things in a pleasant way . He thinks of success more than of failure , and tends towards confidence more than towards hesitation in what he does and decides (Abdul-Kareem & Al-Douri ,2010). Also optimism and positive temperament are important for bodily health, whereas pessimism which is connected with lack of hope, anger and aggression can cause many health problems including high blood pressure, disease of the coronal artery and cancer. Also it leads to lowering the level of health, expected age and the rise in the death average (Al-Ansaari, 1998).

Optimism was examined through two clinical groups. It was indicated that there is a positive relationship between optimism and mental and bodily health (Roux, 2013), and adaptation with pressures, and healthy conduct even those groups who have cancer diagnosis, and refreshing after surgery (Zenger, et al., 2013). Optimism is also connected with positive expectations which are not related to a certain position. For it defines for people a way for achieving their goals instead of losing hope in achieving them(Haadi, 2008). Studies in the science of health psychology emphasized the importance of optimism and hope in man's life, in order to be free from dangers which may destroy his bodily and mental health. Optimistic persons have a better adaptation to life circumstances more than the persons who tend to be pessimistic (Abdul-Kareem & Al-Douri, 2010).

It can be said that orientation to life is a kind of quiet thinking and contemplating how things go whether at present or in the past, which might be expressed by satisfaction with life in general (Ali, 2012). Feeling optimistic is important in caring for patients specially in the science of tumors (Geiser, et al., 2015).

The studies which dealt with feeling hopeful and orientation to life are varied with several variables and with different categories not cancer patients. Bahman, et al.(2016) conducted a study which aimed to know the effect of existential knowledge treatment in increasing hope and limiting depression among female patients of kidney failure. The sample of the study consisted of (22) female patients of kidney failure. The group was divided into two groups: an experimental group which underwent guidance program, and a control group which did not undergo the guidance program. The period of the program continued for three months at two sessions per week, and the duration of each session was one and a half hours. The results of the study showed that there is effectiveness for the existential knowledge program on the female patients whereby much improvement occurred in the level of hope and limiting depression among them.

Sadeghi, et al. (2015) conducted a study which aimed to uncover the effectiveness of a program for increasing hope and limiting depression among a sample of drugs addicts. The results of the study showed that the training which is based on treatment by hope decreases depression and increases hope among them.

Rehman, et al.(2014) conducted a study which aimed to reveal the relationship between hope and anxiety among university students. The sample consisted of (125) females and (125) males. The results of the study showed that there was no relationship between hope and anxiety, and there were no differences between the two genders in the light of the two variables of the study.

Al-Bakkoush(2014) conducted a study which aimed to know the relationship between hope and the feeling of pain among a sample of cancer patients. The sample consisted of (36) cancer patients whose ages ranged between (29-80) years. The results of the study showed that there was an inverse correlation between the levels of hope and feeling of pain among cancer patients. The results of the study also revealed that there were no statistically significant differences between the means of the males and those of the females.

Abdel-Khalek & Snyder(2007) conducted a study which aimed to reveal the variable which predicts hope among a sample of Kuwait University students consisting of (323) male and female students. The results of the study showed that there was a positive and statistically significant correlation between hope and each of optimism self-estimation, positive emotionalism, happiness, satisfaction with life, bodily and mental health, religiosity and extroversion, and a negative relationship with anxiety and pessimism. The results also indicated that there were no differences in optimism, hope, happiness, and satisfaction with life which are due to the gender variable.

Concerning orientation to life, Tashtoush (2015) conducted a study which aimed to reveal the level of satisfaction with life, the level of recognized social support and the relationship between the two of them among female patients of breast cancer. The sample of the study consisted of (215) female patients of breast cancer who receive treatment at the Hussein Center for Cancer. The results showed that the level of satisfaction with life came within the medium and that there were statistically significant differences in the level of satisfaction with life due to the variables of age, social status, educational level, stage of treatment and the period of being inflicted by the disease. The results of the study showed that there was a positive statistically significant relationship between the level of satisfaction with life and the level of social support among the female patients of breast cancer.

Abu-Hadrous,(2013) conducted a study which aimed to know the relationship between the recognized social support and each of the self-efficiency in confronting the disease , and orientation to life among cancer patients in the Gaza Strip. The study also aimed to know the differences between the means of the individuals of the sample in the light of each of the gender, educational level, number of years of being inflicted by the disease. The sample consisted of (118) cancer patients of whom (36) were males and (82) were females. The results showed that there was a positive significant correlation between the level of the recognized social support and the level of each of self-efficiency in confronting the disease and orientation to life. The results of the study also showed that there were no statistically significant differences in the orientation to life according to the variables of gender and the educational level, whereas there were statistically significant differences according to the period of being inflicted by the disease.

Saleh, (2013) conducted a study which aimed to reveal the relationship between feeling of happiness and orientation to life among a sample of motor-handicapped who were harmed by the aggression on Gaza. It also aimed to know if there were statistically significant differences between the means of the students on the happiness measure and orientation to life which were due to the variables of age, gender and the degree of handicap. The sample consisted of (122) handicapped male and female students who were joining the continuous education program at the Islamic University. The results of the study showed that there was a statistically significant relationship among the students on the two measures of happiness and orientation to life which were due to the gender variable.

Al-Douri & Abdul-Kareem, (2010) conducted a study which aimed to investigate the relationship between optimism and orientation to life among a sample of female students of the Girls' Faculty of Education at Baghdad University. The sample of the study consisted of(319) female students of the first and fourth stages. The results of the study showed that there was a significant correlation between optimism and orientation to life.

Al-Ansaari, (2001) conducted a study which aimed to prepare an Arab picture of orientation to life. The sample of the study consisted of (250) students of Kuwait university. The results of the study showed that there were statistically significant differences in optimism according to the variable of gender and in favor of the males.

Problem Of The Study And Its Questions:

The problem of the present study emanates through the notes of the researcher and her daily observations of the aggravation of the disease of cancer in the Palestinian society, with the few material potentials which help in recovering and the grave mental and bodily effects which this disease leaves not only on the patient but also on his family and his family members. So anxiety and watching of each stage of the treatment stages remain. This includes feelings of fear, loss of hope in recovering, lack of desire in life, pessimism and lack of joy in all aspects of life. From here the problem of the study is summarized by answering the main question of the study: Is there a relationship between the level of feeling of hope among cancer patients and the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah?

From the main question of the study, there emanated the following sub-questions:

1-What is the level of the feeling by cancer patients of hope at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah?

2-What is the level of orientation to life in the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah?

3-Is there an effect for the level of feeling by the cancer patients of hope in the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Center/Ramallah?

4-Are there differences in the level of feeling by the cancer patients of hope at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah in the light of the two variables of gender and the period of being inflicted with the disease?

5- Are there differences in the level of orientation to life among the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah in the light of the two variables of gender and the period of being inflicted with the disease?

Hypotheses of the Study:

1. There is a significant relationship at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) between the feeling by patients of cancer of hope and the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.
2. There is a significant effect at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) for the feeling by cancer patients of hope in the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.
3. There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of feeling by cancer patients of hope at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah which are due to the gender variable.
4. There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of feeling by cancer patients of hope at the Palestine Medical Compound which are due to the variable of the period of being inflicted with the disease.
5. There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of the orientation to life by the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah which are due to the gender variable.
6. There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of orientation to life by cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah which are due to the variable of the period of being inflicted with the disease.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- 1-Knowing the size of the correlation between the level of feeling hopeful and orientation to life among cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.
- 2-Getting acquainted with the level of feeling hopeful among the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.
- 3-Getting acquainted with the level of orientation to life among cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.
- 4-Knowing the effect of the level of feeling hopeful among the cancer patients on the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.
- 5-Revealing the differences in the level of feeling hopeful and life orientation among the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah in the light of the two variables of gender and the period of being inflicted with the disease.

Importance of the Study:

The importance of the study lies in the following:

--This study is considered one of the few studies which dealt with the two concepts of feeling hopeful and orientation to life among cancer patients specially in the Palestinian society.

--This study is considered as an introduction for other studies and researches to be interested in the psychological aspect of patients who are inflicted with diseases which lead to death and specially cancer patients.

--This study might contribute in arousing the interest of officials for preparing guidance programs in order to deal with these patients so as to lessen their mental suffering, and to develop the positive meanings among them such as the feeling of hope and optimism, satisfaction with life and other things.

Limitations of the Study: The study was limited to a sample of cancer patients who check up at the Palestine Medical Compound in the city of Ramallah during the month of April 2018.

Methodology of the Study and Its Procedures:

Community of the Study:

The population of the study consisted of all cancer patients who check up at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah during the month of April 2018 and whose number is (1500) patients.

Sample of the Study:

The sample of the study consisted of (200) cancer patients who were chosen by the simple random method. The researcher retrieved (195) questionnaires which were valid for statistical analysis and which represented the sample of the study with a percentage of (13%) of the original population. The following table clarifies how the individuals of the sample are distributed according to gender and the period of being inflicted with the disease.

Table (1): Distribution of the Individuals of the Sample According to Gender and the period of Being Inflicted With the Disease

Variable	Levels of the Variable	Number	Percentage
Gender	Male	101	51.8%
	Female	94	48.2%
Period of Being Inflicted with the Disease	Less than one year	53	27.2%
	From 1-5 Years	78	40.0%
	More than 5 Years	64	32.8%

Instruments of the Study:

First: The Measure of Hope: The researcher adopted measure of Snyder and his colleagues (1991), as was mentioned in the Judeh and Abu-Jarad study (2011). Ahmad Abdul-Khaliq translated it from English into Arabic. The measure consisted of (12) items in which he used quadruple alternatives from (1-4) in front of every item, whereby the low degree is (1) and the

upper degree is (32). The high degree indicates high hope. The measure consists of two domains: The Pathways Domain and it is represented by items (2,9,10,12). As for the items which are represented by the numbers (3,5,7,11) they are distracters or fillers and they are not corrected. The measure is corrected by the algebraic addition of the degrees which were chosen by the respondent. The two degrees of Pathways and the Wills are added to represent the total degree of hope. Judeh (2010) calculated the validity of the measure and its reliability in the Palestinian environment and it enjoyed a degree of reliability and validity which justifies using it.

Validity of the Measure:

To verify the validity of the Measure of Hope among the cancer patients in its preliminary form, the researcher adopted the apparent validity (validity by the referees). So the measure was presented to referees having experience and specialization whereby they were requested to judge the validity of the items and the extent of their suitability for their topic and their domain. They indicated its truth and validity. The correlation coefficient between the means of every item of the measure and the total means for it was calculated. Its level of significance was examined at the statistical significance level of ($\alpha=0.05$) on the individuals of the actual sample of the study, whereby it was indicated that the correlation coefficients for all the items of the measure with the total degree for it was statistically significant at ($\alpha=0.05$), and it they ranged between (0.214 and 0.655).

Reliability of the Measure:

To verify the degree of the reliability of the Measure of Hope, the Internal Consistency method was used by using the Cronbach Alpha consistency equation, on the actual sample of the study. The value of the consistency coefficient by this method for the Measure of Hope was as indicated in the following table:

Table (2): Values of the Reliability Coefficient for the Feeling of Hope

Dimension	Number of Items	Value of Alpha
Feeling of Hope	12	.848

It is clear from Table (2) that the values of reliability coefficient for the level of the feeling of hope among the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah was (0.848) and it is an acceptable reliability proportion.

Second: The Measure of Orientation to Life: The researcher adopted the Measure of Orientation to Life which was put by Scheier and Craver, (1985), and which was translated into Arabic by Al-Ansaari (1998) as was mentioned by Al-Ansaari (2001). In its final form, the Measure consisted of (10) expressions each of which is answered on the basis of five choices (No: 1, Little:2, Medium: 3, Much: 4, Very Much: 5), which measure optimism with expressions like (I am always optimistic regarding my future). Each item in the Measure is given a weighed degree which ranges from 1-5. The items which indicate the existence of optimism are corrected by giving them the same weights that is (5,4,3,2,1), while the items which point out

to lack of existence of optimism by giving them reversed weights, that is, the responses are given the weights (1,2,3,4,5) (Al-Ansaari, 2001).

The one who prepared the Measure calculated the validity of the Measure whereby all the correlation coefficients between the expression and the total degree on the one measure was more than (.30), and subsequently, it was considered as an indicator of the internal consistency of the Measure. The Measure obtained a good reliability coefficient of (0.70%).

Validity of the Measure:

To verify the validity of the Measure of Orientation to Life in its preliminary form, the researcher adopted the apparent validity method (the validity by the referees). The Measure was presented to a group of referees having the experience and specialization. They were requested to judge the validity of the items, the extent of their suitability for their topic and their domain, the extent of their clarity and the soundness of their formulation and adding any other notes which they deem suitable. The referees indicated the validity of the Measure without modification. After this, the validity of building the Measure was verified, whereby the correlation coefficient between the means of every item of the Measure with the total means for it was calculated. The level of its significance was examined at the statistical significance level of ($\alpha=0.05$) for the individuals of the actual sample of the study, whereby it was indicated that the correlation coefficient for all the items of the Measure with the total degree for it are statistically significant at ($\alpha=0.05$), and it ranged between (0.177 and 0.627).

Reliability of the Measure:

To verify the degree of the reliability of the Measure of Orientation to Life, the Internal Consistency method was adopted by using the Cronbach Alpha reliability equation on the actual sample of the study. The value of the reliability coefficient by this method for the Measure of Orientation to Life was as is indicated in the following table:

Table (3): Values of Reliability Coefficients for the Level of Orientation to Life

Dimension	Number of Items	Value of Alpha
Orientation to life	10	0.907

It is clear from Table (3) that the values of reliability coefficient for the level of the cancer patients' orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound /Ramallah was (0.907), and it is an acceptable reliability proportion.

Statistical Treatments of the Data:

After collecting the questionnaires from the sample of the study, the researcher took down the responses of the individuals of the sample, entered them into the computer and treated them by using the program (STSS). The arithmetic means and the standard deviations were calculated in order to answer the questions of the study. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient was calculated, the Multiple Regression Analysis Test, the Independent T test and the One way ANOVA test were calculated in order to test the hypotheses of the study, whereas the reliability coefficient of the instrument of the study was calculated by means of the Cronbach Alpha Reliability Equation.

Presenting the Results of the Study and Discussing Them

First Section: Results Related to the Questions of the Study:

1- Results Relating to the First Question (Level of Feeling Hopeful):

Table (4): Arithmetic Means, Standard deviation and Degree of Estimation for the Level of Feeling Hopeful

Arithmetic Means	Standard Deviation	Degree of Estimation	Dimension
Feeling hopeful	2.70	0.458	Medium

It is clear from Table (4) that the medium of feeling hopeful among the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah was (2.70) with a medium degree of estimation. The researcher ascribes this to the fact that cancer patients have subjective fears, anxiety and tension because of the disease which is often connected with death. Nevertheless they still have faith in fate and destiny which grants them a certain amount of optimism about recovering from this disease, self-satisfaction and the strong will to overcome it. Thus the level of feeling hopeful was at a medium degree, that is, they still have a comforting inner feeling which is characterized by patience and faith in a better future. This leads to a positive temperament, mental health and improving the bodily immunity system (Bahmani, et al., 2016). Also the feeling of hope is the best belief in order to reach a positive result under the pressing circumstance and it is the thing which benefits people in dealing with the problems which are connected with the disease and acclimatizing with it (Raheem & Abdul-Hafith, 2015), (Hunsaker et al., 2016).

2. Results Pertaining to the Second Question (Level of the Orientation to Life):

Table (5): Arithmetic Means, Standard Deviation and the degree of Estimation of the Level of Orientation to Life

Arithmetic Means	Standard Deviation	Degree of Estimation	Dimension
Orientation to life	2.90	0.524	Medium

It is clear from table (5) that the means of the orientation of cancer patients to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah was (2.90), with a medium degree of estimation. The researcher ascribes this to the fact that cancer patients have a positive view of life, and this increases their ability to confront the disease and its effects. They enjoy a positive subjective vision through which they can expect positive things from the negative events of life and positive things for the present and the future. This result agrees with the study of (Tashtoush, 2015).

Second Section: Results Pertaining to Examining the Hypotheses of the Study:

First Hypothesis: "There is a significant relationship at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) between the level of feeling hopeful by the cancer patients and the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah."

To test the existence of a correlation between the level of feeling hopeful and the level of orientation to life, this is done through the Pearson Correlation Coefficient Test, as indicated in (Table 6)

Table (6): Results of the Test of the Pearson Correlation Coefficient Between the Level of Feeling Hopeful and the Level of Orientation to Life.

Orientation to Life		
Feeling hopeful	Correlation Coefficient	0.473**
	Significance Level	0.000
	Number	195

It is clear from Table (6) that there is a positive relationship between the level of feeling hopeful and the level of feeling of orientation to life. The significance value was (0.00) and it is smaller than (0.05). It is also clear that this is a relatively strong relationship because the values of the correlation coefficient were (0.473). The researcher interprets this by the fact that the cancer patients have optimism and hope despite the disease. For the optimistic persons have a better adaptation to the life circumstances more than the persons who tend to be pessimistic (Abdul-Kareem & Al-Douri, 2010).

This is what made them to welcome life with a satisfied spirit and a mental comfort which reflect their love of life and their orientation to life with all might that they have out of their faith that they still have objective which they want to achieve.

This result agrees with the study of (Abu-Hadrous, 2013), the study of (Al-Douri & Abdul-Kareem, 2010) and the study of (Abdel-Khalek & Snyder, 2007).

The Second Hypothesis: “There is an effect having significance at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) for the feeling of hope by the cancer patients in the level of their orientation to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.”

To test this hypothesis, the Multiple Regression Test was conducted, as indicated in Table (7).

Table (7): Results of the Multiple Regression Analysis between Feeling of Hope and Orientation to Life.

Variables	B Coefficients		Calculated T Value	Significance Level of T
	Unstandardized Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients		
(Constant)	1.439		7.246	0.000
Feeling of Hope	0.541	0.473	7.454	0.000
Value of R	0.473			
Value of R-square	0.224			
Adjusted R-square	0.220			

Calculated Value of F 55.562

Significance Level of F Test 0.000

It is clear from Table (7) that there is a significant effect for the feeling of hope in the orientation to life among the cancer patients. The calculated value of (F) was (55.562), and it is significant at the significance level of (0.000). The defining coefficient was (0.224) which points out to the fact that feeling hopeful explains the value of (22.4%) of the changes occurring in the orientations of the cancer patients to life. The Table indicates that there is a statistically significant effect at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) for the dimension of feeling hopeful. The values of (T) for this dimension was smaller than ($\alpha \leq 0.05$), that is, the feeling of hope affects the orientation of cancer patients to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah.

The researcher interprets this result by the fact that hope among the cancer patients is considered a motivating factor among individuals which is positively connected with self-respect and the recognized efficiency, while it is negatively connected with depression, and that individuals having the highest levels of hope are the most optimistic and concentrating on success instead of failure, and they are the happiest and most persevering in achieving the objectives. This leads to more efficacy for the patients and reinforcing the bodily and mental immunity system. This means that the cancer patients are motivated by hope, optimism and satisfaction with life to reinforce the positive life orientation in them. This result agrees with the study of (Sadeghi, et al., 2015), the study of (Abdel-Kalek & Snyder, 2007), and the study of (Al-Douri & Abdul-Kareem, 2010).

The Third Hypothesis: “ There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of feeling hopeful by the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah which are due to the variable of gender.”

To test this hypothesis, (T) test was conducted for two independent samples as indicated in Table (8).

Table (8): results of (T) test for Two Independent Samples for testing the level of Significance of the Differences According to Gender

Dimension	Gender	Medium	Standard Deviation	Degree of Freedom	Calculated “T” Value	Statistical Significance
Feeling Hopeful	Male	2.69	.511	193	-139-	.890
	Female	2.70	.396			

It is clear from Table (8) that there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the medium of feeling hopeful by the cancer patients according to the variable of gender. The significance level for it was (0.890) and it is bigger than (0.05). This means accepting the zero hypothesis, that is, feeling hopeful does not differ among the cancer patients with their different genders. The researcher interprets this by the fact that the male cancer patients as well as the females have the same fears concerning the disease. However,

all of them believe in the same beliefs and ideas which are related to the disease. For they live the same bitter experience of treatment, and perhaps they offer support for each other, and they urge optimism, strength and solidity in order to overcome this disease. Thus there are no differences between the two genders. The result of this study agrees with the study of (Al-Bakkoush, 2014), the study of (Abdel-Khalek & Snyder, 2007) and the study of (Rehman, et al., 2014).

The Fourth Hypothesis: “ There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of feeling hopeful by the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah which are due to the variable of the period of being afflicted with the disease.”

To test this hypothesis, the One Way ANOVA test was conducted, as indicated in Table (9).

Table (9): Results of the One way ANOVA TEST for Testing the Significance Level for the Differences According to the Period of Affliction With This Disease.

Dimension	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Means of “T” Squares	Value	Significance Level
Feeling hopeful	Among Groups	0.151	2	0.076	0.358	0.700
	Within Groups	40.505	192	0.211		

It is clear from Table (9) that there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the medium of feeling hopeful by the cancer patients according to the variable of the period of being inflicted by the disease. The significance level for it was (0.770) and it is bigger than (0.05). This means accepting the zero hypothesis, that is, feeling hopeful does not differ among cancer patients with the difference in the period of being afflicted with the disease. The researcher interprets this by the fact that the psychological effects on the cancer patients does not differ with the difference of the time period of being afflicted with the disease, and that the patient’s sense of hope and optimism granted him more strength and resistance to the effects of this disease. For hope improves the bodily and mental immunity system of the patient. This grants him/her more strength in the painful journey of treatment. Hope is also considered as one of the most important factors in the knowledge adaptation due to its positive effects in improving the methods of treating difficult diseases, and it leads to a positive temperament, mental health and improving the bodily immunity system (Bahmani, et al., 2016). This result differs from the study of (Mustafa & Baker, 2014).

The Fifth Hypothesis: “ There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of the orientation by the cancer patients to life at the Palestine Medical Compound/Ramallah which are due to gender.

To test this hypothesis, a (T) test was conducted for two independent samples, as indicated in the following Table:

Table (10): Results of the (T) Test for Two Independent samples for Testing the Significance Level of the Differences According to Gender

Dimension	Gender	Medium	Standard Deviation	Degree of Freedom	Calculated "T" Value	Statistical Significance
Orientation To Life	Male	2.81	0.579	193	-2.366-	0.019
	Female	2.99	0.444			

it is clear from Table (10) that there are statistically significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the medium of the orientation to life by the cancer patients according to the variable of gender in favor of the females. The significance level for it was (0.019) and it is smaller than (0.05). This means rejecting the zero hypothesis, that is, the orientation to life differs among cancer patients with the difference in their gender. The researcher interprets this by the fact that the females have the desire in life, hope and optimism, and they enjoy a psychological firmness which makes them accept the disease with a satisfied spirit. This motivates them to put up with the disease and to be patient in confronting the disease. This result differs from the study by Al-Ansaari (2001) in which the orientation to life was in favor of the males. It also differs from the study of Abu_Hadrous (2013) and the study of Saleh (2013) whereby there were not any differences between the two genders.

The Sixth Hypothesis: "There are no significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of the orientation to life by the cancer patients at the Palestine Medical Compound/ Ramallah which are due to the period of being inflicted with the disease."

In order to test this hypothesis, the One Way ANOVA Test was conducted, as indicated in Table (11):

Table (11): Results of the One Way ANOVA Test for Testing the Significance Level of the Differences According to the Period of Infliction With the Disease.

Dimension	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Means of Squares	Value of "T"	Level of Significance
Orientation To Life	Between Groups	0.795	2	0.397	1.453	0.237
	Within Groups	52.513	192	0.274		

It is clear from Table (11) that there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level of ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the medium of the orientation to life among cancer patients according to the variable of the period of being inflicted with the disease. The significance level for it was (0.237) and it is bigger than (0.05). This means accepting the zero hypothesis, that is, orientation to life does not differ among cancer patients with the difference of the period of being inflicted with the disease. The researcher ascribes this to the fact that the cancer patients welcome life and they are overwhelmed by the feeling of satisfaction and tranquility which

express the extent of their faith in what God had ordained for them. This emanates from their awareness and their religious beliefs that this is a tribulation from God and that they should show more patience. This comforting psychological feeling grants more hope which positively motivates them to life, which is reflected on their mental health. This result differs from the result of the study by (Abu-Hadrous, 2013) and the study by (Tashtoush, 2015).

Recommendations of the Study

In the light of the results of the study, the researcher recommended the following recommendations:

__Offering guidance programs for cancer patients inside the hospitals in order to provide more moral support for them.

__Working on providing psychological specialists in order to work at the governmental and private hospitals and holding individual sessions for the patients.

__Forming supporting groups from the patients who were healed in order to provide psychological support through talking about their experience with the disease.

__Charging the specialized authorities with the necessity of making awareness and educational programs about the disease of cancer, and considering it like any disease which needs following up and treatment.

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