

THE IMPACT OF PRODUCTIVITY AND NON-MEDICAL COSTS IN CERVICAL CANCER PATIENT AT SANGLAH GENERAL HOSPITAL DENPASAR (Case Report)

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Abstarct

Cervical cancer is a malignant disease with high prevalence rate in the world. One of the therapies are often given as a therapy for the cervical cancer patients in advanced stage is chemotherapy. Chemotherapy in cervical cancer patients takes a long time and requires high cost therapy. We report case of the woman who had diagnosed advanced stage of cervical cancer. Patients were given 6 series of chemotherapy, however during chemotherapy until 3 series, the patient was burdened by productivity and non-medical costs. This caused, patient decided not to continue further chemotherapy and choose alternative treatments i.e. drinking medicinal herbs as the treatment of the disease.

Keywords: cervical cancer, chemotherapy, productivity costs, non-medical costs, herbal medicine

INTRODUCTION

Cervical cancer is a malignant disease with high prevalence rate in the world. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) cervical cancer is estimated to be about 500,000 new cases and 250,000 deaths also occur each year.¹ In Indonesia, more than 15,000 cases of cervical cancer was detected each year and the spreading of cases seen accumulation in Java and Bali. About 8,000 of them ended with the death.²

Chemotherapy is one of the therapies are often given for the therapy of cervical cancer stage IIB to stage IIIB with using drugs either in the form of single or combination.³ Chemotherapy in patients with cervical cancer takes a long time and requires high cost, either medical expenses that include the cost of medical and non-medical costs also must be issued by the patient as well as the cost of lost productivity during the treatment.⁴

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THE CASE

A woman was 59 years old came to Sanglah General Hospital at Denpasar for checked her condition, based on examination patient was diagnosed stage IIIB of cervical cancer. The patient was began diagnosed cervical cancer after got so much bleeding constantly. In addition patients also got strong pain. The doctor explained to the patient, that therapy can be given for the disease just chemotherapy and radiation. The doctor also explains that the therapy will be given to hers required very high cost and took long time. The patient initially refused to be given suggested treatment from the doctor. This matter cause the patient did not have enough money paid treatment that was given to patient, but patient with the presence of Government health care that can be coverage the entire cost such as chemotherapy and radiation, so that was made the patient preapered to given chemotherapy and radiation.

Before chemotherapy, first made public on the state of repair of these patients. This is because based on the results of laboratory examination in these patients showed increased levels of SGPT and SGOT are

43,00 U/L and 39,00 U/L. This led to the existence of extra costs that must be paid by the patients. After the doctor declared that the patient was fit for chemotherapy with the consideration that the State of the patient have been eligible for chemotherapy according to the procedure fixed was Sanglah. The patient was then given chemotherapy Paclitaxel regimens. Doctors planned chemotherapy was given to the patient was 6 series then followed by radiation.

During her therapy at the hospital until 3 series of chemotherapy, patients felt burdened by the cost. Although the cost had been insured by the Government, but the patient still burdened by the cost of the treatment. This caused patient didn't want continue the further therapy. The government didn't cover all of the treatment cost. Burdened patient if her family productivity costs should lose due to take much time off from her job to accompany replied to back therapy. In addition the patient also burdened with other costs such as the cost of food and drink, transport costs, the costs of letters and other costs patient during chemotherapy such as control and treatment in Sanglah General Hospital. During chemotherapy, patient treatment in hospital have lost productivity costs 750,000 rupiah and non-medical costs 1,117,000 rupiah.

Patient more decided not continue therapy at hospital and switched to alternative medicine such as herbal medicine. The therapy for patient became useless because patient did not obey and required a very high costs and spent a lot of time but patient still felt pain. Consumed herbal medicine can reduce burden of costs because patient can under go treatment at home so that her loss of productivity cost and non-medical cost may be inevitable.

DISCUSSION

Cervical cancer is cancer the primary of a region in the female reproductive organs, which connects the uterus to the vagina.⁵ Chemotherapy is one of the therapies are often given for cervical cancer therapy using

drugs either in the form of single or combination.

Chemotherapy in cervical cancer patients took a long time and required a very high cost, such as medical cost and non-medical cost also must be issued by a patient while under going treatment.⁶ Overall, the medical cost incurred by patients and their families cheaper than non-medical cost incurred during treatment. The non-medical cost such as out-of-pocket for travel, clothes washing (laundry), telephone and others are rarely covered by insurance.⁶

Beside non-medical costs that must be incurred by the patient and her family, there are also other costs burdening patients and her family such as productivity cost. Productivity cost is amount of money that lost and directly relation with the lost time of productive because suffered from an illness and treated in hospital.⁷ Based on research conducted by Davis *et al.* (2005), the health problems of workers and their families is the most important factor that affects the loss of productivity within a few days of absence from work. In addition, the employe with good healthy must be care her family wich sick or physical defect can causes the employe took absent from their jobs and can caused to increased economic burden on family so that can be impact to psychological of patients and their family.^{6,8} The psychological impact that occurred in patients can cause a patient to complete the treatment reluctance or chemotherapy onward.

Finally, further research is needed to provide a description of the effectiveness of the treatment costs between costs for therapy at the hospital and at alternate treatment such as consumption herbal medicine.

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