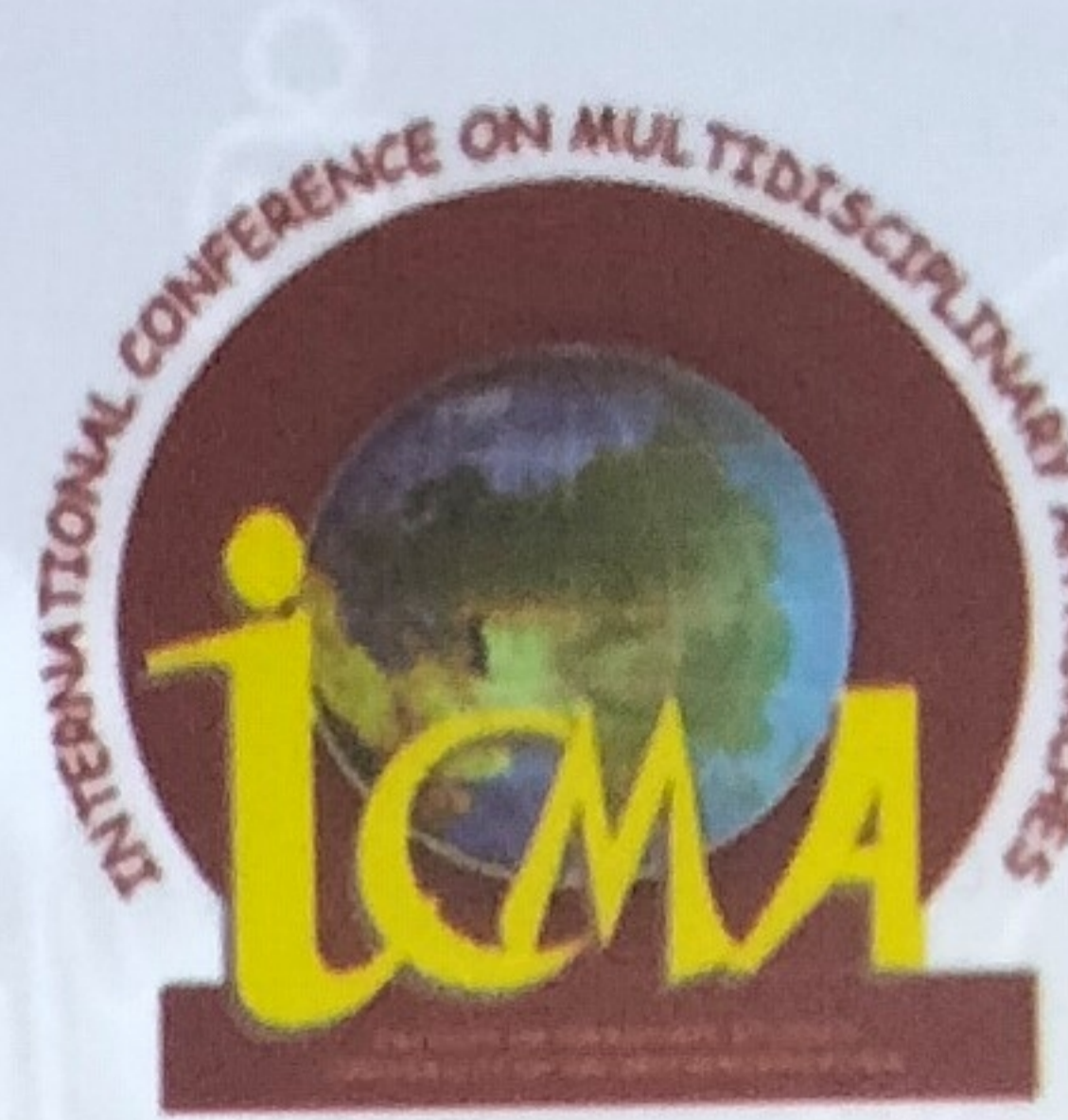




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DIFFERENT QUALITIES OF THE SUBJECTIVE PAIN EXPERIENCE AMONG PATIENTS WITH CANCER ATTENDING APEKSHA HOSPITAL MAHARAGAMA

Edirisinghe NP^{1*}, Makuloluwa PTR², Amarasekara AATD³ and Goonewardena CSE⁴

¹Faculty of Graduates Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka,

²Department of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine,
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

³Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

⁴Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

keenirosha@yahoo.com

Abstract

Cancer pain is a complex and subjective experience that influences a variety of functions, comprising sensory, affective and cognitive components. It is well-known that pain is difficult to describe; patients often do not seem to find the appropriate words to do so. Meanwhile, Short-Form McGill Pain Questionnaire-2 (SF MPQ-2) was proven to be a sensitive instrument in evaluating the quality of pain in patients with cancer and other chronic diseases. Aim of this study was to measure different qualities of the subjective pain experience among patients with cancer. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama among patients with all types of cancer-related pain of at least a month or longer duration. Consecutive sampling method was used to select 384 participants. Demographic and disease-related data were collected using pre-tested questionnaire and pain qualities and its intensity related data were obtained using a validated Sinhala version of SF MPQ-2; which comprises 22 pain quality word descriptors representing four subscales; continuous pain, intermittent pain, affective pain and neuropathic pain. Pain intensity was measured by 11 points Likert scale; (0 -10; no pain to worst pain). Descriptive analysis was done for demographic and pain severity data using SPSS version 23 for windows. The majority were females (n=231; 60.2%) and mean age of the participants was 56 years (SD \pm 11.8), and a majority (n= 95; 24.7%) were having urogenital cancers. Highest mean pain score was reported for aching pain 6.1 (SD \pm 3.2) and lowest for gnawing pain 0.73 (SD \pm 1.9). Mean pain scores and SD \pm of the pain subscales were as follows; continuous 22.5(10.8), intermittent 8.1 (8.9), affective 11.1 (9.8) and neuropathic pain 13.9 (10.9). Proper assessment of different qualities of cancer pain is essential for better care, and SF MPQ-2 provides useful pain descriptors comprising sensory and affective domains.

Keywords: cancer pain, McGill pain questionnaire, pain descriptors