

Table 26: Kumagai 2012²⁶⁷

| Study (ref id) | Kumagai 2012 ²⁶⁷ |
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| Aim | To identify predictors of the last 10 and 3 days of life in people with lung, gastric, or colorectal cancer at home. |
| Population | n=72 nurses who had worked in a visiting nurse station or hospital for more than 10 years and been involved in the care of people with terminally ill lung, gastric or colorectal cancer up to the time of death at home. |
| Setting | 29 visiting nurses station in Japan |
| Study design | Three round Delphi analysis. |
| Methods and analysis | The 30 items for the initial inclusion in the survey were taken from a literature review with methods described, and 2 extra items were added from the author's experience. Nurses were asked to rate each of the initial items on a 4 point Likert scale. Additional items suggested in the first round were added for the further 2 rounds. The nurses were asked to rate each item if they were specific to either lung or gastrointestinal cancer or whether they are present in both. They were asked to rate these for both 10 days and 3 days before death. |
| Themes with findings | Common items that appear in the last 10 days in both lung and gastrointestinal cancer- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digestive symptoms- Anorexia and constipation and diarrhoea. • General condition-fatigue, less conversation, remarkable boney, dry mouth fever and worsening pain. |
| | Common items that appear in the last 3 days of life in both lung and gastrointestinal cancer- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digestive symptoms- Anorexia and constipation and diarrhoea • General condition-fatigue, less conversation, remarkable boney, dry mouth fever and worsening pain, lack of energy dull eyes, diminished mimetic muscles. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory symptoms- Dyspnoea at rest mandibular breathing, rattle, changes of respiratory rhythm, apnoea, increases of sputum, difficulty coughing, up sputum, decreased breath sounds, low SPO2, forced breathing, • Cardiovascular symptoms- appearance of arrhythmia, strong pulse, reduction of blood pressure, peripheral oedema, oliguria/anuria • Level of consciousness- cannot move limbs independently, cannot open eyes to call, drowsy, confusion/delirium, coma |
| | <p>Items that are inappropriate predictors of end of life for people with lung or gastrointestinal cancer in the last 10 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory symptoms- mandibular breathing rattle, apnoea, bloody sputum, cough, forced breathing • Cardiovascular symptoms- cardiac murmur • Level of conscious- cannot move limbs independently, cannot open eyes to call, confusion/delirium, coma. • General condition- hiccups. |
| | <p>Items that are inappropriate predictors of end of life for people with lung or gastrointestinal cancer in the last 3 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory symptoms- bloody sputum, cough • Cardiovascular symptoms- cardiac murmur • General condition- pleural effusion |
| Limitations | Good use of Delphi. There was poor response rate in later rounds commented. |
| Applicability of evidence | An indirect sourced of evidence as this is related to 2 specific kinds of cancer only, and only people in home settings. |