

ÇOCUK ONKOLOJİSİNDE PSİKİYATRİK YAKLAŞIMLAR

77.

BÖLÜM

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GİRİŞ

Kanser, yaşam kalitesini belirgin olarak etkileyen ve sıklıkla ölümle sonuçlanabilen bir sağlık sorunudur (1). Her yıl yaklaşık 300.000 çocuğa kanser teşhisi konduğu tahmin edilmektedir (2). Ülkemizde kanser sıklığı, dünya genelindeki verilerle benzerlik göstermektedir. Çocukluk çağında en sık görülen kanser lösemi iken, ergen yaş grubunda erkeklerde testis ve kemik kanserleri, kızlarda tiroid kanserleri ve Hodgkin hastalığı ilk sıralarda gelmektedir (3).

1970'lerden önce, kanser tanısı alan bireylerin yaşam beklentisi oldukça düşük iken, kanser tedavisi alanındaki çalışmaların ilerlemesi ile birlikte 1975 yılından 2010'a kadar mortalite oranlarında %50'den fazla düşüş olduğu görülmüştür (4). Günümüzde gelişmiş ülkelerde çocukluk çağı kanserlerinin %80'e yakını tedavi edilebilmektedir. Gelişmemiş ülkelerde ise bu oranların %20 civarında olduğu görülmektedir (5). 2030 yılında bu yaş grubunun kanserlerinin %60 oranında tedavi edilebilmesi hedeflenmektedir (2). Kanser tedavisi edilme oranlarının artması, kanser hastaları ve ailelerinin psikososyal yönden değerlendirilmesi de beraberinde getirmiştir (4).

TANI ALMA SÜRECİ

Yapılan çalışmalar bir çocuğa veya ergene kanser tanısı konmasının aile üyeleri için stres verici olduğunu ve bu sürecin tanı konmasını takip eden 1 yıl süre ile devam ettiğini göstermiştir (6). Klinik durum hakkında yeterli bilgi paylaşımının sağla-

namaması, çocuğun semptomlarının kalıcılığı ile hastalığının halihazırdaki ve gelecekteki etkileri hakkında endişelenmesine yol açar. Bilgi paylaşımı aşamasında ebeveynlerin rolü, çocuğun yaşına göre değişkenlik göstermektedir. 4-12 yaş gibi küçük çocuklarla iletişimde ebeveynler merkezi rol oynarken, 13 yaştan itibaren otonomi, sorumluluk ve bağımsızlık becerilerinin artmasıyla çocuklar sağlık çalışanları ile direkt iletişim kurmak istemektedir. Bu dönemde ebeveynlerin ve sağlık personelinin destekleyici rolü devam etmelidir (7). Bu süreçte ebeveynlerin almaları gereken sorumluluk için kendilerini hazırlıksız hissettikleri ve tanı ile ilgili bilgi paylaşımını nasıl yapmaları gerektiği konusunda yeterince bilgilendirilmedikleri görülmüştür (8). Ruh sağlığı çalışanının tanı alma sürecinde hasta ve ailenin konumu, verdikleri tepkiler ve hastalığı algılama biçimleri hakkında bilgi sahibi olması, çocukla ve aileyle iletişim kurmasını ve onların duygularını anlamasını kolaylaştıracaktır (9). Hastaların tanıya uyumunu uygun düzeyde bilgilendirmenin yanı sıra bireyin baş etme şekilleri, gelişimsel faktörler, çocuğun ve ailenin hastalık öncesi psikososyal durumu ve stres düzeyi, ailenin sosyoekonomik düzeyi, gelir ve eğitim düzeyi ve sosyal desteklere ulaşabilmele-ri gibi faktörlerin etkilediği düşünülmektedir (10).

Tanı alan hastaların tedavi öncesi dönemde depresyon ve anksiyete belirtileri artmaktadır. Bu belirtilerin artmasını öngören faktörler çocuğun fiziksel, günlük yaşamına ilişkin, psikolojik ve bilgilendirme konusundaki ihtiyaçlarının karşılanmamasıdır. Operasyon sonrası hastaların kaygı

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