



Relationship Among Religious Orientation, Death Anxiety, Social Connectedness, and Life Satisfaction in Cancer Patients: the Mediating Role of Hope

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Citation:

Navabakhsh N, Goudarzian AH, Sharif-Nia H, Lehto R.H, She L, Osborne JW, Zaboli E, Kohestani D, Hejazi S. Relationship Among Religious Orientation, Death Anxiety, Social Connectedness, and Life Satisfaction in Cancer Patients: the Mediating Role of Hope. *Iranian biomedical journal* 2024; 28(7): 327.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Positive psychological factors such as hope, religiosity, and social support may help alleviate death anxiety in patients. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the hope-mediated relationships among religious orientation, social connectedness, life satisfaction, and death anxiety in patients with cancer.

Methods and Materials: A cross-sectional study evaluated 420 patients with cancer. Surveys assessed hope, death anxiety, religious orientation, social connectedness, and life satisfaction via previously validated surveys. Statistical analyses included descriptive, confirmatory factor analysis of the measurements and tests of a mediation model. All indirect relationships were assessed using the bias-corrected bootstrapping technique.

Results: Participants mean age was 51.97 years (SD = 20.03). Hope was included in the measurement model as a unitary second-order construct combining two strongly related scales. Direct effects showed significant positive relationships between hope and social connectedness ($B = 0.309$; $p = 0.001$), life satisfaction ($B = 0.451$; $p = 0.001$), and religious orientation ($B = 0.401$; $p = 0.001$). There was a significant negative relationship between hope and death anxiety ($B = -0.200$; $p = 0.05$). Results support the role of hope in mediating relationships between social connectedness ($B = -0.080$; $p = 0.05$), life satisfaction ($B = -0.090$; $p = 0.05$), religious orientation ($B = -0.062$; $p = 0.05$), and death anxiety.

Conclusion and Satisfaction: Hope plays a significant mediating role in the relationship between social connectedness, religious orientation, life satisfaction, and death anxiety. Promoting hope may be a strategy for managing death anxiety for patients facing cancer.

Keywords: Anxiety, Hope, Neoplasms, Orientation