

Mothers of Children With Cancer: Family, Personal and Social Repercussions

Abstract

Childhood cancer presents a continuous growth to become a public health event and its occurrence causes a series of changes in family dynamics. The objective of this study was to understand the family, personal and social repercussions of the mothers of children diagnosed with cancer. The phenomenological method for research in psychology, based on the thoughts of Martin Heidegger, was used, and the participants were fifteen mothers housed in the Lar de Apoio à Criança com Câncer (Support Home for Children with Cancer) in Manaus, Brazil. An open interview was used and the leading question was: "Could you please describe to me how the moment you received the diagnosis that your child had cancer affected you and how you felt on receiving this news". It was found that various modifications occurred in their lives, with repercussions at the family, personal and social levels. Caring is lived in its complete amplitude in its relation with others and also with themselves, providing growth and learning.

Keywords: Child cancer; Family, Personal and social repercussions; Caring;