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Psychoneuroendocrinoimmunology and cancer: Psycho immunological analysis in correlation with the prognosis

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Thanks to the discoveries of psychoneuroendocrinoimmunology, we now know that every psychological state is mediated by a specific neurochemical condition and every neurochemical change in turn influences psychological status. We can now identify three different levels of neurochemical mediation of the psychological states: neurotransmission, neuromodulation, and the psychoneuromodulation. Neurotransmission is composed of five main neural pathways, noradrenaline, acetylcholine, dopamine, serotonin, and histamine; neuromodulation; and the psychoneuromodulation. We have performed several clinical studies in an attempt to correlate the psychological status of cancer patients with the immune alterations characteristic of the clinical history of neoplastic disease. We have studied the immunologic status by evaluating cytokine blood levels and the lymphocyte subpopulation; the psychological status was assessed by the Ror-schach's test; and spiritual status was evaluated by a previously published test to explore spiritual faith. These preliminary psychological studies seem to suggest that a pre-treatment analysis of psychological and spiritual status may predict the efficacy of both chemotherapy and immunotherapy in advanced cancer patients

Biography:

Dr. Giusy Messina was born in 1980. She took her graduate degree (US master equivalent) in Clinical Psychology from the University of Milan (Università degli studi di Milano-Bicocca) in 2004. She is specialized in Psychotherapy from the School of Medicine of the University of Milan. She is working in the clinic with patients and her research area is Psychoneuroendocrinoimmunology (PNEI) and her main research focus is the relation between the psychic condition and the psychoneuroimmunologic of cancer patients using the projective Rorschach's test. Dr. Messina is author of more than 100 scientific publications on international and Italian journals. She is enrolled as apprentice in the Psychiatry Clinic of the Major Hospital of Milan (Ospedale Maggiore-Policlinico). She is Associate Member of IPOS (International Psycho-Oncology Society) and of WPA (World Psychiatric Association). She is also a reviewer of Journal of Research in Medical Sciences, Oncology and Tumour. Currently is PhD in Psychology at University of Studies in Bergamo.