



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

TURKEY



Population: 69,660,559

Current Directory:

Printed version

Online version

None identified x

Key Contact/National Association

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Palliative Care Services

NK = not known

Number of Palliative Care Services

	Inpatient Palliative Care Units	Hospices	Consultant Teams in Hospitals	Home Care Teams	Day Centres	Total
Adult/Children	10	1	10	0	15	36
Paediatric only	10	0	5	0	0	15
				Inpatient Palliative Care Units/hospices	Chronic Hospitals /Nursing Homes	Total
Number of beds allocated to adult palliative care inpatients				26	215	241
				Adults	Children	Total
Number of Bereavement Support Teams				0	0	0

Comments/Sources

- Numbers of palliative care services are estimates only.
- There is no palliative care specialisation in Turkey. However, internists, medical oncologists, family physicians, paediatricians and anaesthetists all provide some form of palliative care service.
- Day care centres (usually named as “ambulatory day care or infusion centres”) are gaining in importance and their numbers are increasing. Chemotherapy administration and blood product transfusion are the main focus of these centres.
- Bereavement support is not provided in Turkey at the present time.

[Ozyilkan, *et al.*, 1995, 1998]

[Aki, *et al.*, 2000]

[Karacan, *et al.*, 2004]

[*Quality of life in colorectal cancer patients*. Invited by European School of Oncology (ESO) and presented at ESO course in Ankara, Turkey, 11/2000]

[*Quality of life in cancer patients*. Invited by European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and presented at ESMO Workshop on Palliative Care in Oncology in Bombay, India, 2/2003]

[*Fatigue in cancer*. Invited by European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and presented at ESMO Workshop on Palliative Care in Oncology in Bombay, India, 2/2003]

[International Interim Meeting on Home care and Hospice in Oncology, Istanbul, October 7 – 9, 2004]

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Adult Palliative Care Population

NK	of patients receiving palliative care have a cancer diagnosis	
NK	of patients receiving palliative care have other incurable conditions	
	Cancer	(n)
Number of patients who die at home	NK	NK
Number of patients who die in a general hospital	NK	NK
Number of patients who die in other healthcare institutions	NK	NK

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative Care Workforce Capacity

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Physicians	0	0	0
Nurses	0	0	0
Social Workers	0	0	0
Psychologists	0	0	0
Physiotherapists	0	0	0
Occupational Therapists	0	0	0
Spiritual/Faith leaders	0	0	0
Volunteers	0	0	0

Comments/Sources

- There is no specific palliative care specialisation in Turkey.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Funding of palliative care services

Total number of palliative care services funded by the government	0
Total number of palliative care services funded privately or by NGO's	0

Comments/Sources

- There are no specific palliative care services in Turkey.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Perceived use of main opioids in palliative care

Order of frequency	Opioid	Estimated cost per month (€)
First opioid	Tramadol	47 USD
Second opioid	Morphine	98 USD
Third opioid	Fentanyl	15 USD

Comments/Sources

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Key issues and challenges

- The lack of education of health care personnel.
- The focus on just curing cancer.
- The lack of money.
- Health insurances generally do not cover home palliative care, but some new regulations are being passed to solve this problem.
- The lack of a range of strong opioids: only slow release morphine and fentanyl are available.
- The fear of psychological or physical addiction to strong opioids.
- The unwillingness of some doctors to prescribe strong opioids.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Palliative care accreditation

- There is no specialist accreditation for palliative care professionals in Turkey at the present time.

[EAPC Palliative Care Facts in Europe Questionnaire 2005]

Palliative care milestones

- 1999: The subgroup for supportive care in Turkish oncology is formed, comprising of 45 members (medical/radiation oncologists) from 18 different centres.
- 2004: The subgroup for supportive care in Turkish oncology marks the publication of the Council of Europe (2003) report on palliative care (Recommendation 24 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the organisation of palliative care) by translating the report into Turkish and distributing it to medical centres, The Health Ministry and other places related to the organization of palliative care.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

Health policy

- The most important initiative undertaken to address the problem of uncontrolled pain as a health concern in Turkey since 1995 has been the availability of strong opioid and its special prescription.
- The most important policy changes affecting the development of hospice and palliative care made in Turkey since 2000 have been the focus on palliative care education and the need for specific units for hospice and palliative care.
- Some specialist palliative care programmes have been developed. However, wider programmes are needed which are supported by all health insurances.
- The subgroup for supportive care in Turkish oncology did not participate in any way in the Council of Europe discussions about euthanasia (the Marty Report). However, euthanasia and assisted suicide have been discussed in some palliative care meetings in Turkey, although there is no progress on legalisation.

[EAPC Palliative Care Euro-Barometer 2005]

References

Aki, Z., Kotiloglu, G., and Ozyilkan, O. 2000. A patient with a prolonged prothrombin time due to an adverse interaction between 5-Fluorouracil and warfarin. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, vol. 950: 1093-1094.



EAPC Task Force on the development of Palliative Care in Europe

Karacan, O, Eyuboglu, F. O., Akcay, S., and Ozyilkan O. 2004. Acute interstitial pneumopathy associated with docetaxel hypersensitivity. *Onkologie*, vol. 27(6): 563-5.

Ozyilkan, O., Karaagaoglu, E., Topeli, A., Kars, A., Baltali, E., Tekuzman, G., and Dinçer, D. 1995. A Questionnaire for the Assessment of Quality of Life in Cancer Patients in Turkey. *Materia Medica Polona*, vol. 27(4): 153-156.

Ozyilkan, O., Baltali, E., Tekuzman, G., and Firat, D. 1998. The impact of diagnosis and treatment on the quality of life in breast cancer patients. *Neoplasma*, vol. 44(1): 50 - 52.

N.B. For further information on the status of palliative care services in Turkey, please see:

http://www.eolc-observatory.net/global_analysis/turkey.htm

Information correct as at: 7th August 2006

