Studies examines characteristics of patients with cancer who died by suicide
3 March 2021

Individuals with cancer face a higher risk of suicide than people in the general population, but little is known about the characteristics of patients with cancer who have died by suicide. A new study published in *Psycho-Oncology* compared the characteristics of suicide cases with and without cancer.

Among 14,446 suicide cases between 2003 and 2017 in Hong Kong, 10% had a history of cancer. Compared with non-cancer cases, patients with cancer were generally older and less likely to live alone; more likely to use violent methods; less likely to have histories of physical and psychiatric problems; and more likely to communicate about their suicidal intent before death.

"Patients with cancer suffer from more than physical pain—we should also care about their mental and social well-being. It is crucial to advocate for suicide prevention to their caregivers and healthcare professionals during the treatment process," said senior author Paul S.F. Yip, Ph.D., of The University of Hong Kong.


Provided by Wiley