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## UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH IN RELATION TO LIFE EXPECTANCY AND END OF LIFE EXPERIENCE IN TERMINALLY-ILL CANCER PATIENTS

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Spiritual beliefs and faith are important in the lives of many terminally cancer patients, spiritual beliefs and faith can help patients cope with the emotional experiences of end of life and face death and also influence life expectancy in terminally cancer patients. The spiritual and faith dimensions fuse the essential estimations of terminally cancer patients, their considerations on what gives life meaning and religious or non-religious perspective. It additionally incorporates convictions about what happens after death. The purpose of this literature review was to describe the role of spirituality and faith in life expectancy and end of life experience in terminally Cancer patients. The reviewers searched electronic databases, and performed a manual search for studies published. The inclusion criteria covered spirituality and faith for terminally cancer patients in relation to life expectancy and end of life experience. The studies were, originally, randomized controlled trials or quasi-experimental designs. Studies were selected using the inclusion criteria. The results indicate that spirituality and faith produce positive effects on patients' end of life experience and psychological conditions and an increase their life expectancy. Spirituality and faith improve the adjustment and coping strategies with cancer. Further research into the cost effectiveness of spirituality, faith and its long-term effectiveness for cancer suffering is needed.

### Biography

Leyla Fallahi is a PhD student in health psychology at Islamic Azad University. She is a psychologist in the cancer section in Shohadaye Tajrish hospital. She has held more than 40 workshops about psycho-oncology and palliative care. She is a board member of the clinical psychology community in Tehran. Also she is a member of specialized psycho-oncology committee in Iran. She has written and translated a number of books in the field of psycho-oncology and health psychology. She has actively been engaged in teaching and researching of spirituality.

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