

# Relationship between Level of Self-Efficacy and Self-Management; Hemodialysis versus Oncology Related Fatigue

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**Abstract** Background: Fatigue is a distressing symptom in patients with advanced cancer. The use of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic strategies has resulted in advances of managing cancer-related fatigue. Aim: To investigate the relationship between self-management and level of self-efficacy among hemodialysis versus oncology related fatigue. Design: Descriptive analytical research design was utilized. Setting: Hemodialysis unit of the outpatient and medical in patient ward at king Abdulaziz university hospital, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Subjects: A convenience sample which consists of 111 adult patients divided into 37 oncology hospitalized patients and 74 Hemodialysis patients. Tools: 1. Participant characteristics questionnaire was developed to assess demographical data. 2. Fatigue scale had been adapted to quantify the magnitude of fatigue. 3. Self-efficacy scale had been adapted to assess optimistic self-beliefs of coping in order to face difficulties of illness demands in life. Results: Patients ability to keep calm during difficulties and relied on ability to cope were found to be moderately true among 52.7% of hemodialysis compared to 75.5% oncology patients with statistical significant difference of less than 0.05. As regard to fatigue level, 45.1% of hemodialysis patients agreed that “easy I feel tired” compared to 78.4% oncology patients with statistical difference of less than 0.05. Conclusions: There is an evident of negative correlation between fatigue and self-efficacy as fatigue increases, self-efficacy decreases. The proper fatigue management resulted in increase in self-efficacy. Recommendations: Nurses need to assess fatigue levels among patients who are either receiving chemotherapy or hemodialysis. Also nurses need to exert efforts and spend quality time with chronic fatigue patients and find means to raise self-efficacy to modify and better manage it.

**Keywords** Hemodialysis, Oncology, Fatigue, Self-management, Self-Efficacy

## 1. Introduction

Fatigue is a distressing symptom in patients with advanced cancer. Although the use of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic strategies has resulted in advances in managing of cancer-related fatigue. Unfortunately, it is not well-managed by patients with advanced cancer. Recognition regarding the benefits of self-management in managing most of chronic conditions has increased [1]. The prevalence of diagnosable cancer related fatigue of patients who had completed treatment more than 1 year ago, were 17% lower than expected based on previous reports that have used less-strict criteria [2]. Lifestyle changes, such as exercising more, relieving stress, and eating healthy, well-balanced diet can help ease fatigue [3]. Also education of fatigue management and adequate information regarding

self-help measures were valuable in helping subjects deal with the side effects of chemotherapy [4]. As regard hemodialysis in Menofia Governorate, Egypt, [5] reported that the prevalence rate of Hemodialysis (HD) represents 414 patients per million populations (pmp). The mean age was 52.03 + 14.67 years, 60.3% male and 39.7 female. The mean duration of dialysis was found to be 41.23 + 37.59 months. There is a high prevalence rate of hemodialysis which represents the only mode of treatment of ESRD patients. Chronic kidney disease is a worldwide health problem. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is unpredictable and patients may not feel ill as the disease progresses to end stage renal disease (ESRD), an illness that affects over 593,000 people in the U.S [6]. Patients in the end-stage renal disease phase have two options in order to stay alive: life-long dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) or kidney transplantation. Of these options, dialysis is considered the treatment of choice. Patients on hemodialysis account for approximately 92% of the overall dialysis population [6] and endure a high symptom burden as they may experience troubling symptoms such as fatigue, decreased appetite,

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trouble concentrating, swelling in their feet and hands, muscle cramps, and itching [7-9]; all of which cause daily distress and negatively affects their quality of life [10, 11]. Patients on hemodialysis must find ways to manage their fatigue and mitigate its effects on their lives [12]. Collaborative relationship between patients and care providers is the basis of effective self-efficacy in care is particularly with emphasis on their self-care aspects [13]. Patients on hemodialysis should receive regular healthcare for the rest of their lives (usually three times a week, each time three to four hours). Although dialysis can increase the lifespan of the patient, it cannot alter the natural course of renal disease and fully replace the renal function; as a result, patients experience numerous complications and problems. The clinical findings in these patients are non-specific symptoms such as fatigue, lethargy, pruritus, amnesia, loss of sexual desire, and nausea. Chronic renal failure (CRF) or end stage renal disease ESRD is one of the major causes of death and disability worldwide. The outbreak of kidney failure in European countries has increased by 30% and has an uptrend in Iran as well; it has been predicted that by the year 1400, there will be over 95 thousand renal patients in Iran [14].

General self-efficacy refers to a global confidence in coping abilities across a wide range of demanding situations and reflects a person's general problem-solving ability. Significant associations between higher general self-efficacy and physical health, better mental and physical health related quality of life (HRQoL). Increased physical functioning, and increased cancer specific health related quality of life (HRQoL) have been demonstrated in patients with NET, higher general self-efficacy was associated with better mental and physical HRQoL [15].

The self-management program is based on behavior change theories, focusing on alterations in daily life activity performance (values), prioritizing, task duration, alternation between physical and mental activity, etc. The activity pacing self-management program consists of a stabilization phase and a grading phase. The stabilization phase focuses on coaching clients in how to perform daily life activities within the limits of their actual capacity. Daily life activities were defined as all responsibilities and desired activities in the areas of personal and child care, domestic care, productivity, and leisure. To appropriately pace activities, participants were instructed to estimate their current physical and mental capabilities (in terms of activity duration) before commencing an activity, keeping in mind the fluctuating nature of their symptoms [16, 17]. The activity duration advised within the program was 25%–50% lower than the capacity participants reported to account for any overestimations. Each activity block was interspersed with breaks, with the length of each break equal to the duration of the activity. Breaks were defined as relative periods of rest, with the participant just relaxing or performing a different type of light activity. The emphasis on breaks is based on the observation that recovery from physical exertion is

prolonged in people with chronic fatigue syndrome [18-20]. The process of restructuring activity patterns involves significant behavioral change for people with chronic fatigue syndrome, and facilitation of this process can be beneficial [21]. Stress is an important factor in the persistence of fatigue; therefore, relaxation may be a crucial component in the treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome. The relaxation program for this study comprised education about the role of stress in chronic fatigue syndrome biology and the opportunities that stress management provides [22]. The activity pacing self-management program shows evidence of being a feasible and effective intervention to optimize performance of and satisfaction with desired daily life activities and to decrease fatigue in women with chronic fatigue syndrome [23].

## 2. Aim of the study

To investigate the relationship between self-management and level of self-efficacy among hemodialysis versus oncology related fatigue.

### Research questions:

- What is the relationship between fatigue level and level of self-efficacy among hemodialysis versus oncology patient?
- What is a relationship between fatigue self-management of and level of self-efficacy among hemodialysis versus oncology patients?

### Operational definition:

Self-efficacy beliefs determine how people feel, think, motivate themselves and behave. Such beliefs produce these diverse effects through four major processes. They include cognitive, motivational, affective and selection processes [27].

## 3. Subject and Method

### Design:

Descriptive and analytical research design was utilized for this study.

### Setting:

The study was conducted at the hemodialysis unit of the outpatient and medical in patient ward at king Abdulaziz university hospital, Jeddah as it the teaching hospital.

### Subjects:

• A convenience sample consists of 111 Adult patients divided into 37 oncology hospitalized patients and 74 Hemodialysis patients with the following criteria:

#### ▪ Inclusion criteria:

- ◀ Adult
- ◀ Male or female
- ◀ Saudi or non-Saudi

■ **Exclusion criteria:**

- ◀ Terminally ill oncology patients
- ◀ Children

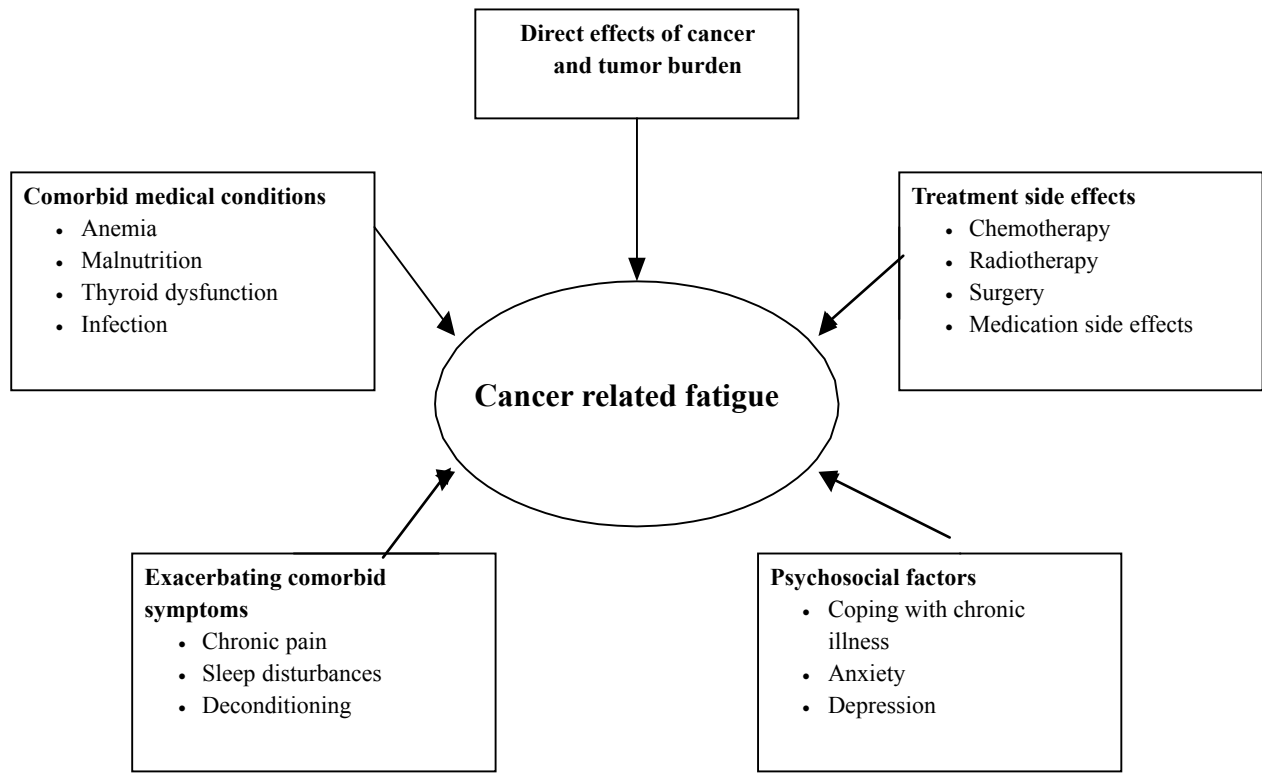


Figure (1). Causes of fatigue [24-26]

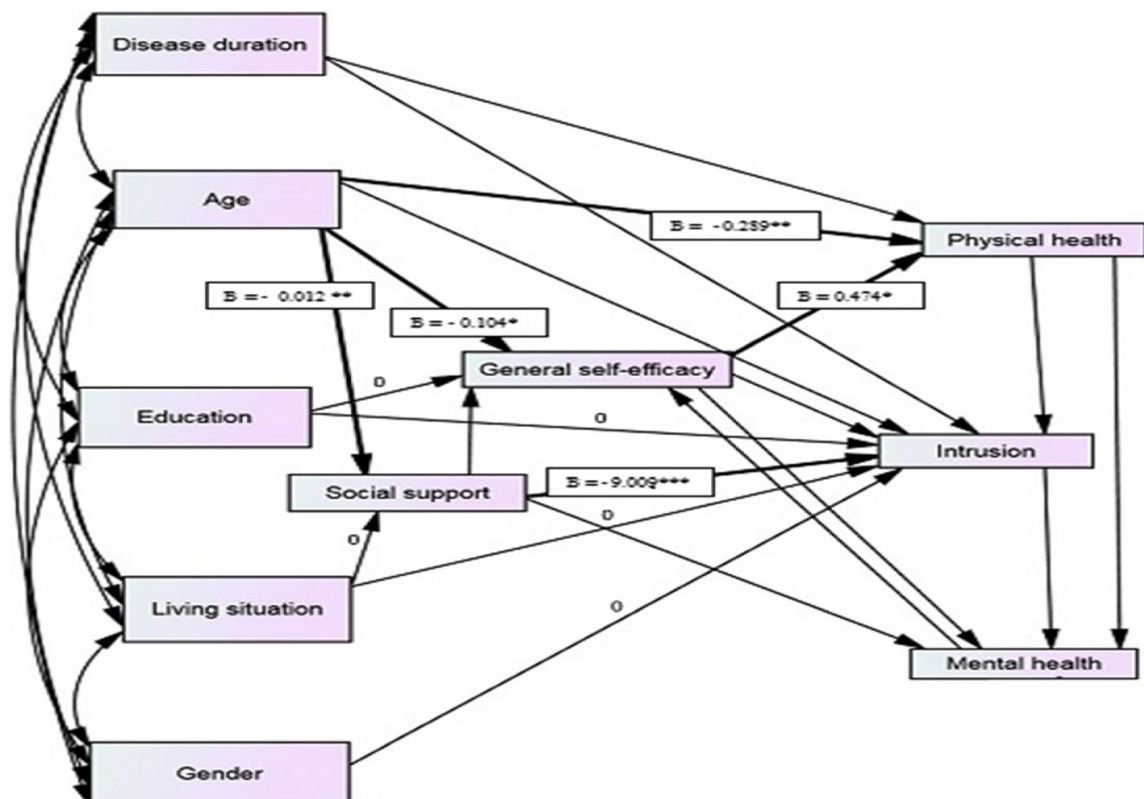


Figure (2). A Path diagram of direct and indirect influences of general self-efficacy, social support, cancer related-stress and health-related mental and physical components of life [15]

## Tools:

Three tools were used for data collection:

1. **Participant characteristics questionnaire** was developed by the researcher consisted of gender, Age, marital status, habits, occupation, educational level, stages of disease, approach of treatment, onset of disease. This tool was formulated to assess patient demographical data.
2. **The Fatigue severity scale:** had been adapted from [28]. It was adapted to tests of internal consistency and validity, and used to compare fatigue in two chronic conditions: hemodialysis and cancer. The researcher added three open ended questions to explore self-fatigue management commonly used by oncology patient's vs hemodialysis Patients. This tool was used to quantify the magnitude of fatigue from one to seven as reflected and translated to Arabic.
3. **Generalized Self -Efficacy scale:** that had been adopted from [29]. This tool was used to assess optimistic self-beliefs for coping with a variety of difficult demands in life. This scale is a self-report measure of self-efficacy, also this scale is correlated to emotion, optimism, and work satisfaction. The total score is calculated by finding the sum of the all items. For the general self-efficacy, the total score ranges between 10 and 40, with a higher score indicating more self-efficacy. This tool was translated into Arabic.

### Scoring system for self-efficacy scale:

- Not at all true scored =1
- Hardly true scored = 2
- Moderately or exactly, true scored = 3

### Scoring system for fatigue scale:

- Disagree scored =1
- neither disagree nor agree scored =2
- agree scored =3

## Procedure for data collection:

- **Approval:** An official permission to conduct the study was obtained from the biomedical ethical unit at king Abdulaziz University. Feasibility visits were conducted to medical and day care units that host oncology patients as well as outpatient hemodialysis units for the purpose of research participation.
- Period of data collection was conducted from March to end of May 2015.
- **Human Rights:** The researcher explained the purpose of the study and that subjects have full right to withdraw from the study at any time desires.
- Ethical approval was obtained; also a verbal consent from the patients had been taken.
- Patients who agreed to participate and fulfill the inclusion and exclusion criteria were selected.
- Self-administered tools were compiled from the above mentioned resources and translated into Arabic to

facilitate the data collection process.

- **Validity:** Tools were checked by a panel of five experts in medical surgical and critical care nursing, Faculty of nursing, king Abdulaziz University, Modifications were applied as needed.
- **Reliability:** of the self-efficacy and fatigue scale were obtained from the tool developers as well as other used research studies. The alpha reliability of the scale was reported as 0.95, indicating very high internal consistency.
- **Pilot Study:** was performed to test the practicality and applicability of the tools to detect any difficulties and/or problems that may be encountered during data collection. Also to estimate the time required to complete the self-administered tools.
  - Tools were distributed to oncology patients towards the end of morning shift upon completion of morning care and medical rounds while during the hemodialysis session for the other group.
  - Time required to fill the study tools were ranged between 25 to 35 minutes.

## Statistical analysis:

Data entry was executed using the statistical software packages for social sciences" SPSS "version 19. Mean and Standard deviation were used to characterize subjects in this study. Scatter Plot "R" was used to correlate the relationships in between the two groups.

## 4. Results

**Table (1)** Demographic properties of the participants, 45% of the Hemodialysis patients were between the ages of 35-59 years as it compared to 64.9% Oncology patients were between the ages of 18-24 years. Gender wise, 63.5% of the Hemodialysis patients were females while 75.5% were males among Oncology patients. Smoking as a habit was revealed that majority of Hemodialysis patients were nonsmokers, while 78.4% of Oncology patients were nonsmokers. Among Hemodialysis versus Oncology, revealed that 93.2% and 78.4% were non-smoker respectively.

**Table (2)** Measures of self-efficacy rating among Hemodialysis versus Oncology patients; as regards to the ability of solving difficult problem if patient were made enough efforts, finding shows 60.8% reported that self-efficacy was moderately true among Hemodialysis versus 59.5% among Oncology patient with value significance of less than 0,05 Easy to commit to achieving goal were reported not at all true 20.4% among Hemodialysis versus 2.7% among Oncology patients who expressed that self-efficacy scale were not at all true. Patients ability to keep calm during difficulties and relied on their ability to adapt were found to be moderately true among 52.7% of Hemodialysis compared to 75.5% Oncology patients with statistical significant difference of less than 0.05.

**Table (3)** As regard to fatigue scale, 45.1% Hemodialysis

patients agreed that “easy I feel tired” compared to 78.4% Oncology patients with statistical difference of less than 0.05. Additionally, 58.1% Hemodialysis patients and 50% agreed that fatigue predominately interferes in physical functioning and causing frequent problems respectively compared to 83.8% and 75.5% among Oncology patients with statistically significant p value less than 0.01. For the statement “I feel that fatigue prevents me to continue to perform bodily function” and “I feel that fatigue interferes with some of the duties and responsibilities, however stated that 23.0% and 10.8 respectively stated neither disagree or agree compared to 2.7% and 2.7% among Oncology groups.

**Table (4)** Dealing with self-fatigue management among the two groups, for the nature of fatigue, the statement “is your fatigue continues” revealed to be highly statistically significant with P value <0.001\* in majority 91.0% of hemodialysis patients, while 62.2% of oncology patients stated that fatigue was intermittent. In regards to time of fatigue, 71.6% of the hemodialysis group reported that fatigues comes with physical effort while 59.5% of Oncology patients reported from fatigue all the time with highly statistically significant with P value <0.001\*.

**Figure (3)** Scatter Plot reveals that there is an evident of negative correlation between fatigue and self-efficacy as fatigue increases, self-efficacy decreases,  $R = -1.88$  with p value of <0.05.

**Figure (4)** Positive correlation as evident as when fatigue managed appropriately, self-efficacy increases  $R=0.176$  with p value >0.05.

**Figure (5)** Both scales are close to their comparatives properties between the two groups.

## 5. Discussions

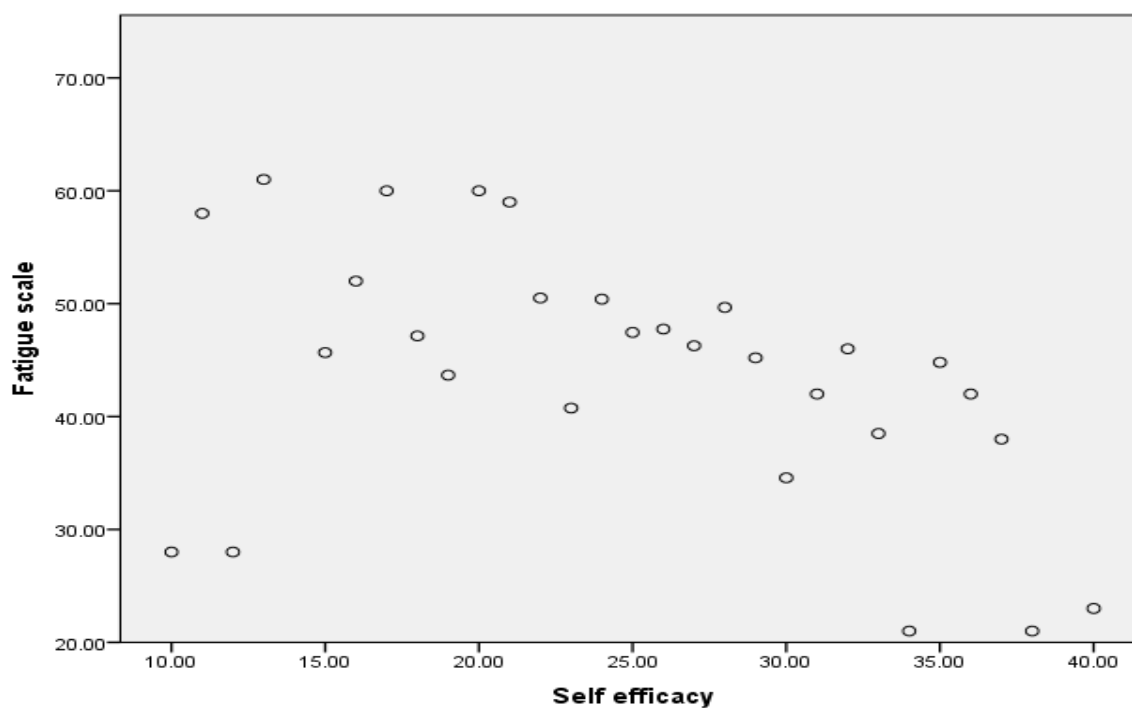
Fatigue is one of the commonly reported complaints among oncology and hemodialysis patients. It is associated with impaired health related life style. Fatigue is documented as a negative symptom experienced by a large number of patients with end stage renal disease undergoing hemodialysis. It is a distressing symptom and consequences can be overwhelming [30]. The person with fatigue need more efforts to perform activities, physical and cognitive, compared with the effort required before the onset of fatigue. Individual have developed avoidance behavior, experience a sense of loss and diminished quality of life [31]. Therefore, the various treatment strategies, that is, exercise, psychosocial support, stress management, nutrition, sleep regulation, and restorative therapy provides effective means to attenuate fatigue [6].

**Table (1).** Socio demographic characteristics among Hemodialysis versus Oncology patients

| Socio demographic characteristics |                   | Group           |      |             |      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------|-------------|------|
|                                   |                   | Hemodialysis=74 |      | Oncology=37 |      |
|                                   |                   | No              | %    | No          | %    |
| Age                               | 18 – years        | 12              | 16.2 | 24          | 64.9 |
|                                   | 25 –              | 7               | 9.5  | 9           | 24.3 |
|                                   | 35 -              | 34              | 45.9 | 4           | 10.8 |
|                                   | 60 or more        | 21              | 28.4 | 0           | 0.0  |
| Marital status                    | Single            | 29              | 39.2 | 4           | 10.8 |
|                                   | Married           | 38              | 51.4 | 1           | 2.7  |
|                                   | Divorced          | 4               | 5.4  | 21          | 56.8 |
|                                   | Widow             | 3               | 4.1  | 11          | 29.7 |
| Number of children                | Mean              | 4.58            |      | 4.24        |      |
|                                   | SD                | 2.34            |      | 1.56        |      |
| Educational level                 | Illiterate        | 19              | 25.7 | 0           | 0.0  |
|                                   | Primary school    | 15              | 20.3 | 6           | 16.2 |
|                                   | Secondary school  | 25              | 33.8 | 10          | 27.0 |
|                                   | Bachelor or above | 15              | 20.3 | 21          | 56.8 |
| Gender                            | Male              | 27              | 36.5 | 28          | 75.7 |
|                                   | Female            | 47              | 63.5 | 9           | 24.3 |
| Habits                            | Non smoker        | 69              | 93.2 | 29          | 78.4 |
|                                   | Smoker            | 5               | 6.8  | 8           | 21.6 |
| Occupation                        | Employed          | 14              | 18.9 | 16          | 43.2 |
|                                   | Housewife         | 15              | 20.3 | 5           | 13.5 |
|                                   | Worker            | 9               | 12.2 | 4           | 10.8 |
|                                   | Unemployed        | 36              | 48.6 | 12          | 32.4 |

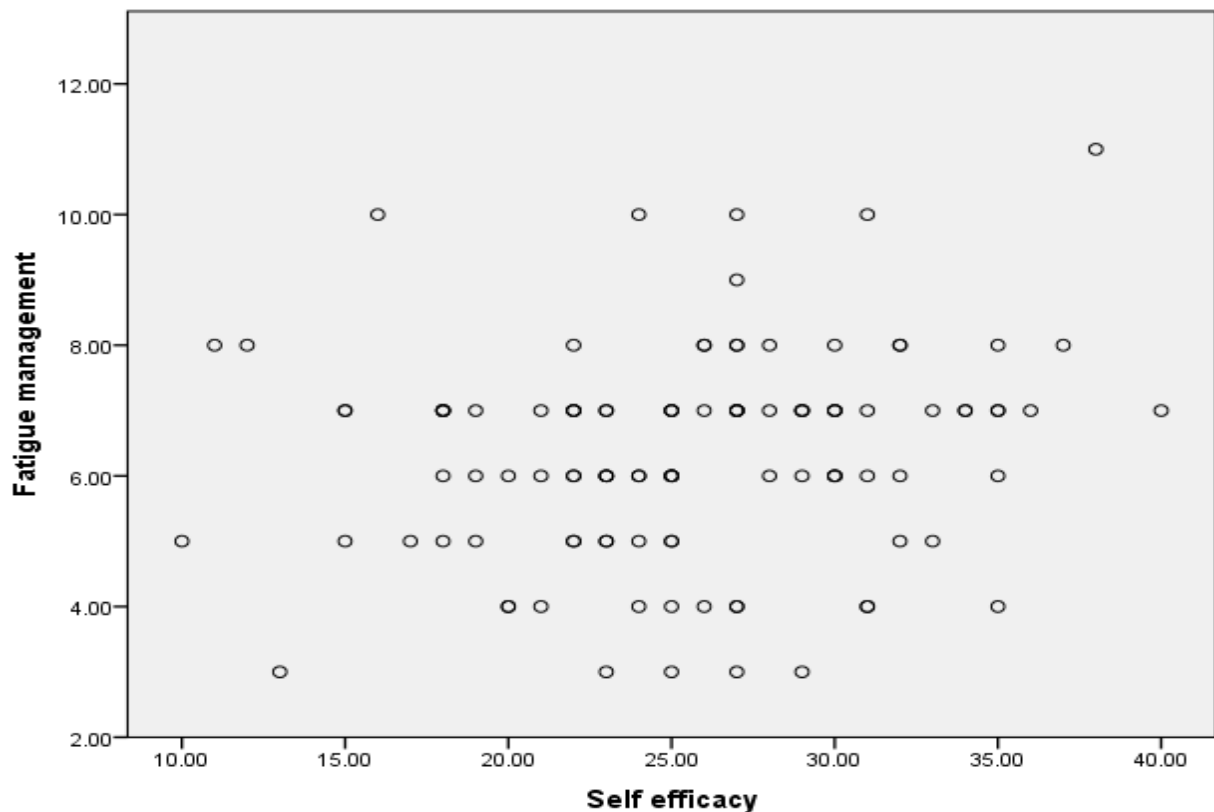
**Table (2).** Distribution of Self-efficacy level among Hemodialysis versus Oncology patients

| Self-Efficacy   |    | Group                 |             |                            |                 |             |                            |            |          |
|---|----|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|
|   |    | Hemodialysis (74)     |             |                            | Oncology (37)   |             |                            |            |          |
|   |    | Not at all true       | Hardly true | Moderately or exactly true | Not at all true | Hardly true | Moderately or exactly true | Chi square | p- value |
| I can always manage to solve difficult problems if I try hard enough.                 | No | 18                    | 11          | 45                         | 3               | 12          | 22                         | 7.11       | <0.05*   |
|   | %  | 24.3                  | 14.9        | 60.8                       | 8.1             | 32.4        | 59.5                       |            |          |
| If someone opposes me, I can find the means and ways to get what I want.              | No | 10                    | 25          | 39                         | 3               | 18          | 16                         | 2.47       | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 13.5                  | 33.8        | 52.7                       | 8.1             | 48.6        | 43.2                       |            |          |
| It is easy for me to stick to my aims and accomplish it my goals.                     | No | 15                    | 25          | 34                         | 1               | 25          | 11                         | 13.13      | <0.01*   |
|   | %  | 20.3                  | 33.8        | 45.9                       | 2.7             | 67.6        | 29.7                       |            |          |
| I am confident that I could deal efficiently with unexpected events.                  | No | 12                    | 25          | 37                         | 2               | 12          | 23                         | 2.97       | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 16.2                  | 33.8        | 50.0                       | 5.4             | 32.4        | 62.2                       |            |          |
| Thanks to my resourcefulness, I know how to handle unforeseen situations.             | No | 14                    | 25          | 35                         | 9               | 15          | 13                         | 1.504      | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 18.9                  | 33.8        | 47.3                       | 24.3            | 40.5        | 35.1                       |            |          |
| I can solve most problems if I invest the necessary effort.                           | No | 12                    | 16          | 46                         | 2               | 13          | 22                         | 4.04       | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 16.2                  | 21.6        | 62.2                       | 5.4             | 35.1        | 59.5                       |            |          |
| I can remain calm when facing difficulties because I can rely on my coping abilities. | No | 15                    | 20          | 39                         | 2               | 7           | 28                         | 6.38       | <0.05*   |
|   | %  | 20.3                  | 27.0        | 52.7                       | 5.4             | 18.9        | 75.7                       |            |          |
| When I am confronted with a problem, I can usually find several solutions.            | No | 7                     | 25          | 42                         | 3               | 21          | 13                         | 5.5        | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 9.5                   | 33.8        | 56.8                       | 8.1             | 56.8        | 35.1                       |            |          |
| If I am in trouble, I can usually think of a solution.                                | No | 5                     | 19          | 50                         | 4               | 15          | 18                         | 3.7        | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 6.8                   | 25.7        | 67.6                       | 10.8            | 40.5        | 48.6                       |            |          |
| I can usually handle whatever comes my way.   | No | 10                    | 26          | 38                         | 5               | 18          | 14                         | 2.1        | >0.05    |
|   | %  | 13.5%                 | 35.1%       | 51.4%                      | 13.5            | 48.6        | 37.8                       |            |          |
| Total self-efficacy score<br>Mean ± SD  |    | 25.1±6.4 Range10 - 40 |             |                            |                 |             |                            |            |          |

**Figure (3).** Correlation between fatigue level and self-efficacy level among Hemodialysis Vs Oncology patients

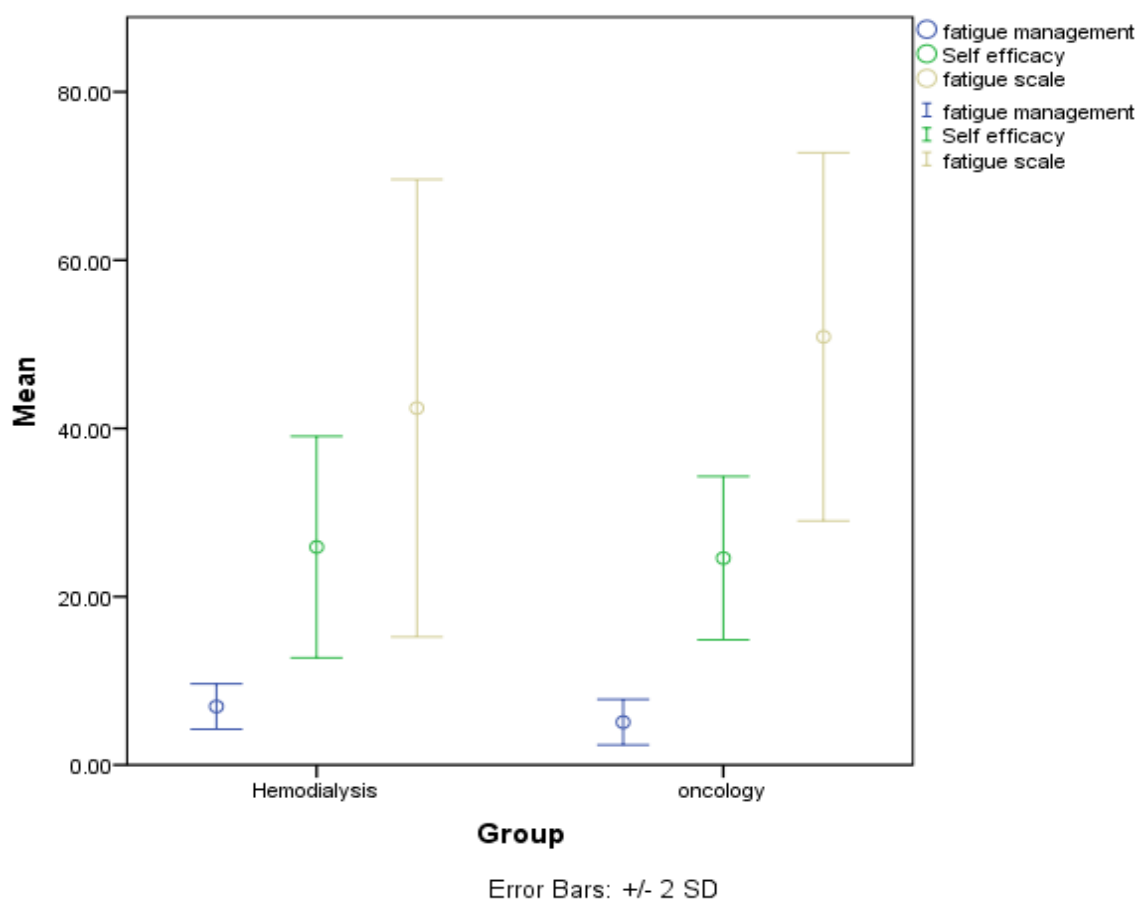
**Table (3).** Distribution of fatigue level among Hemodialysis versus Oncology patients

| Fatigue level   | Hemodialysis (74)  |      |                            |      |       |      | Oncology (37) |      |                            |      |       |      | Chi square | P value |
|---|--------------------|------|----------------------------|------|-------|------|---------------|------|----------------------------|------|-------|------|------------|---------|
|   | disagree           |      | neither disagree nor agree |      | agree |      | disagree      |      | neither disagree nor agree |      | agree |      |            |         |
|   | No                 | %    | No                         | %    | No    | %    | No            | %    | No                         | %    | No    | %    |            |         |
| My motivation is lower when I'm fatigued.                                 | 22                 | 29.7 | 7                          | 9.5  | 45    | 60.8 | 2             | 5.4  | 2                          | 5.4  | 33    | 89.2 | 10.1       | <0.01*  |
| Exercise brings on my fatigued.   | 16                 | 21.6 | 9                          | 12.2 | 49    | 66.2 | 2             | 5.4  | 3                          | 8.1  | 32    | 86.5 | 5.76       | >0.05   |
| I am easily fatigued.   | 20                 | 27.0 | 14                         | 18.9 | 40    | 54.1 | 3             | 8.1  | 5                          | 13.5 | 29    | 78.4 | 7.03       | <0.05*  |
| Fatigue interferes with my physical functioning.                          | 20                 | 27.0 | 11                         | 14.9 | 43    | 58.1 | 3             | 8.1  | 3                          | 8.1  | 31    | 83.8 | 7.6        | <0.05*  |
| Fatigue causes frequent problems for me.                                  | 24                 | 32.4 | 13                         | 17.6 | 37    | 50.0 | 6             | 16.2 | 3                          | 8.1  | 28    | 75.7 | 6.7        | <0.05*  |
| My fatigue prevents sustained physical functioning.                       | 23                 | 31.1 | 17                         | 23.0 | 34    | 45.9 | 5             | 13.5 | 1                          | 2.7  | 31    | 83.8 | 15.3       | <0.001* |
| Fatigue interferes with carrying out certain duties and responsibilities. | 31                 | 41.9 | 8                          | 10.8 | 35    | 47.3 | 5             | 13.5 | 1                          | 2.7  | 31    | 83.8 | 13.64      | <0.01*  |
| Fatigue is among my three disabling symptoms’.                            | 20                 | 27.0 | 5                          | 6.8  | 49    | 66.2 | 5             | 13.5 | 3                          | 8.1  | 29    | 78.4 | 2.58       | >0.05   |
| Fatigue interferes with my work, family or social life.                   | 24                 | 32.4 | 7                          | 9.5  | 43    | 58.1 | 4             | 10.8 | 3                          | 8.1  | 30    | 81.1 | 6.6        | <0.05*  |
| Total fatigue scale score<br>Mean ± SD Range                              | 44.9±13.6<br>9- 63 |      |                            |      |       |      |               |      |                            |      |       |      |            |         |

**Figure (4).** Correlation between self-fatigue management and self-efficacy level among study groups

**Table (4).** Comparison of Fatigue Self -management among Hemodialysis vs Oncology patients

| Fatigue management                         |                        | Group             |      |               |      | Chi square | P value |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|------|---------------|------|------------|---------|
|  |                        | Hemodialysis (74) |      | Oncology (37) |      |            |         |
|  |                        | No                | %    | No            | %    |            |         |
| Is your fatigue continuous or intermittent | continuous             | 6                 | 8.1  | 23            | 62.2 | 37.34      | <0.001* |
|  | intermittent           | 68                | 91.9 | 14            | 37.8 |            |         |
| Time of fatigue                            | All the time           | 9                 | 12.2 | 22            | 59.5 | 29.6       | <0.001* |
|  | With physical effort   | 53                | 71.6 | 15            | 40.5 |            |         |
|  | at dialysis session    | 12                | 16.2 | 0             | 0.0  |            |         |
| How do you overcome fatigue?               | I don't know           | 3                 | 4.1  | 7             | 18.9 | 11.35      | <0.05*  |
|  | sleep a lot            | 25                | 33.8 | 16            | 43.2 |            |         |
|  | Relaxed position       | 31                | 41.9 | 12            | 32.4 |            |         |
|  | take honey, black seed | 9                 | 12.2 | 2             | 5.4  |            |         |
|  | others                 | 6                 | 8.1  | 0             | 0.0  |            |         |

**Figure (5).** Mean and Standard deviation of fatigue scale , self fatigue management and self efficacy level among the study sample

Regarding the socio demographic characteristics of the study subjects; it revealed that almost half of the hemodialysis patients; their age was between 35-59 years while two thirds of the oncology group their age was between 18-24 years old. Also it revealed that almost two thirds of the hemodialysis group were females while three quarters of the oncology patients were among males (**Table 1**). This finding is supported by the results achieved by [32] who have a study of "Acupressure and quality of sleep in

patients with end-stage renal disease". They found that "the ESRD prevalence at higher ages". Also these findings were similar to finding of a study conducted by [33] about "Pre-tertiary hospital care of patients with chronic kidney disease in Indian", where the majority of patients were male. Additionally, [34] who studied "Sex Disparities in Cancer Mortality and Survival" and reported that sex differences in co-morbidity at cancer diagnosis could also skew cancer survival in favor of one sex over the other. Some (45–49),

but not all (50–52), studies have suggested that males have more co-morbid conditions at the point of cancer diagnosis than do females. As co-morbidities are independent prognostic indicators, pre-existing chronic conditions may contribute to poorer cancer survival could be due to the increase prevalence of cancer across the young age continuum.

As regard to self-efficacy scale among Hemodialysis and Oncology patients; the current study revealed that almost half of the hemodialysis group verbedated moderately or exactly true that It was easy for them to stick to their aims and accomplish their goals while more than half of the oncology group verbedated that it is hardly true for the same item of the self-efficacy scale with a highly statistical significant difference  $P < 0.01$  (**Table 2**). This is in line with [35] who surveyed “association of breast cancer patient’s self-efficacy with coping with cancer, perceived barriers to pain management, distress, and pain outcomes in a multiethnic”. Their Results revealed Greater self-efficacy for coping with cancer was associated with older age, less time since diagnosis, and less distress. Also [36] stated that patients on hemodialysis used coping methods “sometimes” and “seldom,” respectively, for coping with the existing conditions, and further added that coping methods were slightly helpful for patients. This is could be because both renal failure and oncology diseases considered as a chronic illness in which one’s patients passed the stage of shock and denial gradually will move into a stage of adaptation and coping.

Whereas, a study titled; “The Development and Preliminary Testing of an Instrument for Assessing Fatigue self-management Outcomes in Patients with advanced cancer”. It concluded that fatigue is a prevalent symptom in advanced cancer. Support for this distressing symptom can be endorsed by understanding the complexity of components of self-management including the frequency, perceived effectiveness, and perceived self-efficacy of fatigue self-management behaviors [37]. This is supported the present study results which declared that almost half & majority of the hemodialysis and oncology group respectively verbedated agree that their fatigue prevents sustained physical functioning, also more than half & majority of the hemodialysis and oncology group respectively verbedated agree that fatigue interferes with their physical functioning with a statistical significant difference  $P < 0.01$  &  $< 0.05$  respectively. As regard to fatigue interferes with carrying out certain duties and responsibilities; more than third & majority of hemodialysis and oncology group respectively verbedated agree with highly statistical difference  $P < 0.01$  (**Table 3**). Moreover, it reveals positive correlation as evident as when fatigue managed appropriately, self-efficacy increases=0.176 with p value  $> 0.05$  (**Fig. 4**). As it come to fatigue management among Hemodialysis Vs Oncology patients; the results reflect differences in responses for the nature of fatigue inherited among two groups. The statement “is your fatigue continues” revealed to be highly statistically significant with P value  $< 0.001^*$  in

majority of hemodialysis patients, while more than half of oncology patients stated that fatigue was intermittent. In regards to time of fatigue, more than two thirds of the hemodialysis group reported that fatigues comes with physical effort while more than half of oncology patients reported from fatigue all the time with highly statistically significant with P value  $< 0.001^*$  (**Table 4**) & (**Fig. 5**). This is supported with a study about “Activity Pacing Self-Management in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome” by [23]. The findings revealed that activity pacing self-management was effective for participants with chronic fatigue syndrome and showing that adaptive pacing alone was not effective in treating chronic fatigue syndrome. More over Activity pacing self-management uses the principle of activity pacing but incorporates a grading phase to gradually increase activity and exercise levels [38, 39]; self-management of fatigue means giving priority to certain activities that are considered essential (e.g., personal hygiene) and deferring, postponing, or delegating all those activities that are not essential (e.g., shopping). Patients may find it useful to keep a personal diary to determine which of their activities are associated with the most intense fatigue. Then, activities and related periods of rest can be planned.

Moreover, for fatigue self-management; the results showed that only one third & almost half of hemodialysis and oncology group respectively stated that they are sleeping a lot as an overcoming action with a highly statistical significance  $P < 0.05$  (**Table 4**). This is contradicted with [40] who identified several strategies that patients may found useful for managing their own fatigue, including energy conservation techniques such as prioritizing activities, pacing (alternating physically demanding with more sedentary activities), scheduling activities at times of peak energy, taking naps as long as they do not interfere with night-time sleep and following a structured daily routine. Distraction through engaging in pleasurable activities is also recommended. This is due to the connection between sleep and chronic fatigue looks at the role of pain. The physical pain associated with chronic fatigue may be a significant factor in the sleep problems experienced by people with chronic fatigue. It has been noticed that pain and sleep influence each other in multiple ways. Pain can make sleep difficult to achieve and sustain. Lack of sleep, in turn, can make patients more sensitive to pain vice versa.

Correlation between fatigue and self-efficacy scale among Hemodialysis Vs Oncology patients; resulted in evident of negative correlation between fatigue and self-efficacy as fatigue increases, self-efficacy decreases,  $R = - 1.88$  with p value of  $< 0.05$  (**Figure 3**). This is supported by a study about “Association between general self-efficacy, social support, cancer-related stress and physical health-related quality of life”. They stated that general self-efficacy is considered a key factor in coping with adjustment to cancer and health related quality of life” HRQoL” [15]. More over general self-efficacy refers to a global confidence in coping abilities across a wide range of demanding situations and reflects a person’s general problem-solving ability better mental and

physical health related quality of life HRQoL, increased physical functioning and increased cancer specific health related quality of life HRQoL have been demonstrated. In patients with neuro endocrine tumors, higher general self-efficacy was associated with better mental and physical health related quality of life HRQoL [41-44]. Strategies for the management of cancer-related fatigue (CRF) emphasize evidence-based strategies for reducing this common symptom. The largest body of data exists for the benefits of exercise for reducing CRF. Patient education and counseling are also considered integral to effective management of CRF. Additional interventions can be non-pharmacologic or pharmacologic, although a combination of approaches may be employed. Several factors known to be associated with CRF may be particularly amenable to treatment.

## 6. Conclusions

- There is an evident of negative correlation between fatigue and self-efficacy as fatigue increases, self-efficacy decreases.
- Patients on hemodialysis endure a high symptom burden that causes daily distress and negatively affects their physical activity.
- Positive correlation as evident as when fatigue managed appropriately, self-efficacy increases.
- There is a highly statistical significant difference regarding fatigue self-management among both groups of the present study.

## 7. Recommendations

- Nurses need to assess fatigue levels routinely among patients who are either receiving chemotherapy or hemodialysis. Also nurses need to exert efforts and spend quality time with chronic fatigue patients and find means to raise self-efficacy and employ all possible means to better manage fatigue.
- Clinical research on cancer-related fatigue should focus on an improved understanding of the etiology of fatigue, relationships between fatigue and co-occurring symptoms, and evaluating treatment interventions.
- Well-designed clinical trials are urgently needed for the development of empirically supported fatigue management strategies to reduce the symptom burden associated with cancer.
- With growing interest in chronic illness, recognition of fatigue as a prioritizing issue for researcher's grants, and treatment guideline development for clinicians to create. Oncologists, and oncology nurses as well as the entire medical team, should become more aware of fatigue problem, its impact on patient quality of life, and the various strategies that may be helpful in its management.

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