

## **Fragile Cancer Patients**

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Cancer affects people from all spectrums of the community. Despite variations in age, education, resource and support systems, many are vulnerable to the complexities in navigating the healthcare system. Pain is seen as a symptom in cancer and thus its management by different physicians may also be different causing great difficulty to patients attempting to find treatment in alleviating it. The psychological and existential components of pain are often given less consideration by clinicians who may prefer a pharmacological approach to treatment. Pain may also be ignored as clinicians prioritise the management of the presenting disease.

Issues surround communication around pain, access to medicines, consent to treatment, understanding of pain and goals of care of symptom control and treatment of cancer will be discussed.