STUDY OF DEPRESSION IN CANCER PATIENTS USING FCM MODEL

W.B.Vasantha Kandasamy and K.Nirmala

Depression is a common psychiatric symptom in cancer patients because they are often under extreme duress. Experiencing the two moods of helplessness and hopelessness the patients suffering from cancer are often depressed and suicidal. Research by psychiatrists have shown that the rates of depression are uniformly higher among the people suffering with cancer when compared with the general population. Depressed patients are often irrational and in most of the cases the doctors miss the presence of depression and do not realize that these patients need special management. Disturbances of mood are sometimes substance induced. These mood disorders encompass a wide range including loss of sleep, loss of appetite, loss of interest in activities apart from negative and suicidal feelings. Since this study involves feelings that are in depth we use Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCM). We take these emotions as conceptual nodes of the FCM and we derive the hidden patterns. We conclude that in many cases, doctors tend to disregard the despair and depression of these patients, and many of them do not specifically treat the depression by use of either anti-depressants or counselling. We explore using FCM the roles of religion, group support and family in alleviating the depression of these patients.