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INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, about 600 thousand new cases of cancer are estimated in the biennium 2016-2017, among which 5540 new cases of leukemia in men and 4,530 in women. Approximately 55,000 bone marrow transplants were performed between 1990 and 2013, and in Brazil, between January and September 2016, 1577, of which 1003 were autologous and 574 were allogenic. The occurrence of graft versus host disease as a reaction to transplantation raises sociocultural issues regarding perceptions about body self-image and social image, loaded with subjectivities and singularities that require objectification as to the meanings and senses attributed to them.

OBJECTIVE

To understand the meanings attributed by leukemia cancer patients, transplanted patients with graft versus host disease (GVHD), their body image and their social image, and the relationships between them.

BACKGROUND

There are few scientific studies that are consistent enough to support health professionals and survivors about the socio-cultural impacts of graft versus host disease.

METHOD

A qualitative study, with a theoretical-methodological reference of the dialectical hermeneutics, having as data-producing technique the semistructured interview and as theoretical-analytical reference the Theory of Difference and Repetition by Gilles Deleuze. The study participants are transplant patients, survivors of leukemias enrolled in the Ambulatory Service of the Bone Marrow Transplant Center / INCA.

RESULTS

The study is in the field phase, with procedures for capturing participants according to inclusion criteria and semi-structured interviews, and four of them have already been performed.

CONCLUSION

We conclude that the study will contribute to the discussion about the social, psychological and cultural consequences of leukemia and its treatment, both among health professionals and in society in general.

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