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## *Knowledge, Attitude and Training Physiotherapist Palliative Care - Gaza Strip.*

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**Background:** Palliative care encompasses holistic management of patients and families facing life-threatening and life-limiting conditions. There is currently little known about Gaza strip physiotherapists' palliative care knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, experience and training needs.

**Objectives:** Palliative care rehabilitation has been positively associated with a high and prolonged level of independent function, which also reduces the burden on care providers(1,2). This study aimed to investigate the existing knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, training and experience of palliative care by physiotherapists working in Gaza strip.

**Methodology:** A quantitative cross-sectional descriptive study using a face to face questionnaire included sociodemographic data, physiotherapist's knowledge, attitude experience and training (modified PTiPC-KABE Scale)(3), the study includes eight major hospitals in the Gaza-Strip. The sample size was 120 participants, 110 were included. SPSS (version 22 for Windows) for descriptive statistics, Chi-Square, Student's t and compare mean -tests were used for the statistical analysis.

**Results:** The total number of respondents was 110(93.3%); male 45%,and females 55%.Years of experience Palliative care intends to hasten death was significant in ( $p = 0.017$ ), Palliative care does not enhance quality of life ( $p = 0.117$ ), I feel a sense of personal failure when a patient dies( $p=0.035$ ), Palliative care considers dying as a complicated process ( $p =0.026$ ), Caring for

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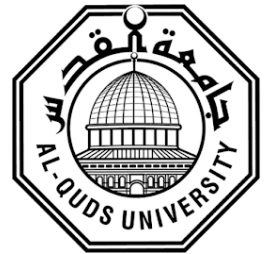
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dying patients is traumatic for me( $p = 0.004$ ), The provision of palliative care requires emotional detachment( $p = 0.009$ ), The physical environment of my workplace is ideal for providing palliative care and rehabilitation( $p = 0.026$ ), I am often exposed to death in my workplace( $p = 0.034$ ),

**Conclusions:** Many of Gaza's physiotherapists perform in palliative care despite inadequate training and limited knowledge in this area. Further learning and training opportunities for graduates and postgraduate students are required for physiotherapists in palliative care.

**Keywords:** Palliative Care, Knowledge, attitude, Physiotherapist, Gaza Strip.