

## Experienced Chronic Sorrow in Mothers of Children with Cancer: A Phenomenological Study

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**Abstract :** Purpose: Chronic sorrow is experienced by mothers of children with cancer. It is a multidimensional concept and is experienced by mothers in different ways depends on their various contexts. Little is known about the concept of chronic sorrow in mothers of children with cancer living in Iran. This study aimed to clarify the concept and explain lived experiences of chronic sorrow in Iranian mothers of children with cancer. Methods: In this hermeneutic phenomenological study, 8 mothers of children with cancer participated in semi structured in-depth interviews about their experiences of chronic sorrow. Interviews continued until data saturation was reached. All interviews were recorded, transcribed, analyzed, and interpreted using 7 steps of the Dickelman et al's phenomenological approach. Results: Three main themes emerged from mothers' experiences of chronic sorrow related to child's cancer. These main themes were 'climbing up shaky rocks,' 'fear and hope,' and 'continuous role changing.' Each of these themes consisted of several subthemes. Conclusion: There are similarities in experiencing chronic sorrow by mothers of children with chronic diseases in different societies. However some experiences are unique in Iranian mothers of children with cancer.

**Keywords :** cancer, children, mothers, Iran, phenomenology

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