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Keynote lecture

1414

CANCER: A FAMILY EXPERIENCE

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Toffler stated in his book *Future Shock*, that the most difficult thing we would have to deal with as a society would be change. Our world is constantly changing, as are our perceptions and definitions of the traditional family. When a person is diagnosed with cancer, the impact extends in a far reaching way to the individuals that are defined as "family". This presentation will explore the ramifications of the diagnosis and treatment of

cancer on the family. Each member of a family will respond differently to the diagnosis and treatment outcomes of cancer. The differences in individual responses are associated with where they are in the developmental life cycle and previous established coping styles. The changes in established relationships will also be impacted by the extent to which the individuals will need to modify and redefine their existence in the family. Interventions for assisting adults and children in their understanding of the cancer experience will be explored. Hope is one of a human being's most valued, private, and powerful intrinsic resources. The concept of defining the hopes and dreams of the family will be reviewed as a strategy for assisting families in coping with cancer.