

Table 1 Themes, subthemes and analytical units

Main theme	Secondary themes	Subthemes	Meaning of units
Passive acceptor	Chronic suffering	Shadow of previous frightening experiences	Being upset by memories, not willing to go back to Afghanistan
		Multiple problems ahead	Poor economic circumstances, unemployment of the father, fear of husband becoming addicted to drug
	Health issues	Livelihood difficulties	Living in an uncomfortable house, being far from the basic health care facilities, low income
		Lack of self-care	Not having visits for health care, not being familiar with coping methods
		Neglect of own health	Not following up treatment for health problems, forgetting to get medicines prescribed by physicians
	Lack of skills	Inability to manage care of the child	Being dependent on others to follow the care of the child, not having enough information about the care of the child
		Constant fear of making mistakes	Increasing feelings of anxiety when the child needs to be visited, not being able to read the prescriptions on drugs
	Maladaptive coping	Maintaining the current situation	Trying to keep their current state unchanged as it seems safe, avoiding new experiences in life
		Isolation	Not having contacts with other mothers of children with cancer, not trying to join social support systems in hospital
	Enthusiasm	Belief in the effectiveness of the care system and treatment	Having trust in the health care providers, not having any complaints
Satisfaction with the service		Praying for nurses and doctors, feeling happy when comparing with the care available in Afghanistan, feeling lucky to be in the Islamic Republic of Iran	