1.1 BRIEF BACKGROUND

Gliomas are the most common primary brain tumors, and originate from glial cells within the central nervous system. These tumors have a direct effect on brain functioning. As the tumor progresses, symptoms and problems resulting from the disease often become more pronounced. This can negatively affect not only the patients, but also their direct social environment, such as spouses, family members and close friends. At present, life expectancy of glioma patients is often restricted, depending on the tumor type and grade. Because of the substantial impact of the disease and its treatment on the everyday lives of patients and their loved ones, it is important to pay attention to quality of life and symptom management. In this dissertation, various studies focusing on health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and symptom management in patients with primary brain tumors and their loved ones will be discussed.