

Summary

Western society places a great emphasis on the breast as a part of feminine beauty .Any threat to the breast has significant effect of on women's quality of life (physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and sexual).She may feel unattractive to her partner and worry that relationship will be negatively affected. She may be embarrassed at how she looks after treatment and refuse to look at herself.

Breast cancer is a cancer that forms in the tissues of the breast usually the ducts and lobules, world wide it is the most common form of cancer in female and second most common cause of death on women and its incidence still to increase. Cancer affects various dimensions of QOL. Quality of life is the degree to which a person enjoys the important possibilities of her life.

Aim of the study:

To evaluate the effect of breast cancer, on women's quality of life

Subjects and Methods

Research design:

In the present study a descriptive design is utilized to evaluate effect of breast cancer on women's quality of life.

Setting:

The study was carried out at the Mansoura oncology institute and university hospital at Mansoura University.

Subject:

Any women attending the study setting was eligible for inclusion in the study sample if she fulfills the following inclusion criteria as have no type of metastasis, married women's, have mastectomy, at different age, and different socioeconomic classless and attending to Mansoura oncology institute and university hospital during the study period.

Tools for data collection:

Three types of tools have been designed and used in this study for data collection as follow:

- 1- **Structured interview questionnaire sheet specific to patients with breast cancer.**
- 2- **Female Sexual Function Index to assess effect of breast cancer on sexuality.**
- 3- **Function Assessment of Cancer Therapy scale (QOL) used to assess effect of breast cancer on women's quality of life.**

Results:

The studied women are in age group ranging from 20 to 65 years old with mean age 46.4 ± 11.2 . Almost half of studied sample are illiterate. The majority of the studied women are not working. Nearly two thirds of the studied women are from rural areas. Nearly three quarters of the studied women hadn't enough income.

Slightly less than half of the studied women their first diagnosis started from 6 months to 1 year. Breast mass is the chief complaint in

most of the studied women. Slightly two third of studied women had no family history about breast cancer.

The present study showed that significant correlation sociodemographic characteristics of studied women and effect of disease on women's quality of life as illiterate women, working status, family income, residence, and women with high number of children.

The present study showed that slightly more than one third of the studied women had moderate effect on sexuality. There is significant correlation between knowledge of women with breast cancer and their quality of life.

There is significant correlation between stages of diseases and their demographic characteristics as education, age, occupation, residence, and number of children.

There is strongly significant correlation between stages of disease and total dimensions of quality of life as physical, psychological, social, sexual, spiritual, and social.

Conclusion

After conduction of the present study, it was found that most of studied women with breast cancer have unsatisfactory knowledge about breast cancer. Moreover, the present study proved that sources of information for women about breast cancer were based on nurses, doctors, neighbors, and mass media.

Qualities of life of women with breast cancer were statistically significant with age, education, residence, working status, income, and number of children.

Recommendations

Based upon finding of the current study, the following recommendation can be deduced.

- Increase level of awareness among women regarding issues of breast cancer using all available mass media as (posters, magazine, and brochure).
- Development and implement different nursing educational program for improve and enhance quality of life for breast cancer women.
- Establish of outreach program for student nurses about early detection of breast cancer and its treatment.
- Further study is necessary to identify factors affecting QOL for patients with breast cancer