

Impact of an Educational Program on Sexual Issues among Cervical Cancer Survivors' Women in Northern Upper Egypt

Background: Sexuality is an important part of normal human functioning. Gynecological cancer and its treatments can affect one or more phases of the sexual response cycle, through alterations of sexual function. Sexual dysfunction is one of the most distressful symptoms among cervical cancer survivors. Sexual distress is a broad term encompassing any sexual discomfort and dysfunction. Sexual difficulties following cervical cancer can be stressful for couples as it can feel like a core part of the relationship has disappeared.

Aim: The study is conducted to evaluate the impact of an educational program on sexual issues (sexual dysfunction & sexual distress) among cervical cancer survivors' women in Northern Upper Egypt.

Methods; Design: A quasi-experimental design. *Setting:* out-patient clinic in the oncology unit at Beni-Suef University Hospital. *Subjects:* A purposive sample of 70 women. *Tools:* structured interviewing questionnaire sheet, female sexual function index, and female sexual distress scale.

Results: The results of the study revealed regression of all items of women's sexual distress scores, and progression of all items of women's sexual items post-program compared to pre-one.

Conclusion: The teaching program was very effective in improving sexuality among cervical cancer survivors' women.

Recommendations: Disseminate the educational booklet at health centers and oncology outpatients. Integrate psychologist, psychosexual specialist, and social worker in treatment and counseling program for women with cervical cancer in the early stage of their treatment.

Keywords: cervical cancer, sexual dysfunction, sexual distress