



## Marital Relationship before Surgery, Sexual Health, and Quality of Life in Women with Breast Cancer after Surgery and Their Spouse

Kanitraporn Prakobkit M.N.S.\*

Tiraporn Junda PhD\*\*

Bualaang Sumdaengrit PhD \*\*\*

### Abstract

The present cross-sectional study was to investigate the levels and analyze correlations between marital relationship before surgery, sexual health, and quality of life in women with breast cancer after surgery. The sample consisted of women with breast cancer and their spouse. A total of 110 surveys were completed by those who came to the follow-up appointments at Lopburi Cancer Hospital, Ramathibodi Hospital, and Chonburi Cancer Hospital. Questionnaires were used for data collection. Quantitative data were analyzed by Pearson's product - moment correlation coefficient.

The results of this study showed that women with breast cancer and their spouse had a high level of satisfaction with their relationship before surgery, a low level of sexual health, and a good level of quality of life. An analysis of the correlations among study variables showed that marital relationship before surgery of women with breast cancer and their relationship with their spouse was positively related with statistical significance ( $r = .60, p < .001$ ), sexual health of women with breast cancer and their relationship with their spouse was positively related with statistical significance ( $r = .48, p < .001$ ), and quality of life of women with breast cancer and their spouse was positively related with statistical significance ( $r = .48, p < .01$ ). It was also found that marital relationship before surgery was negatively related to sexual health after surgery (patients  $r = -.46, p < .001$ ; spouses  $r = -.49, p < .001$ ), marital relationship was positively related to quality of life after surgery (patients  $r = .61, p < .001$ ; spouses  $r = .46, p < .001$ ), and sexual health after surgery was negatively related to quality of life after surgery (patients  $r = -.47, p < .001$ ; spouses  $r = -.14, p < .001$ ) with statistical significance for both the patients and their spouse.

The study findings can increase nurses understanding in problem of marital relationship before surgery, sexual health, and quality of life in women with breast cancer after surgery. The findings can be used to appropriately and effectively devise plans for cares as well as to develop system of assessment and assistance effectively in the needs for women with breast cancer and their spouse.

**Keywords:** marital relationship before surgery, sexual health, quality of life, breast cancer

\* Student of Master of Nursing Science Program (Adult Nursing), Ramathibodi of nursing school, Faculty of Ramathibodi medical, Mahidol University.

\*\* Assistant Professor, Ramathibodi of nursing school, Faculty of Ramathibodi medical, Mahidol University.

\*\*\* Lecture, Ramathibodi of nursing school, Faculty of Ramathibodi medical, Mahidol University.