



Marital Relationships before Treatment, Sexual Health, and Quality of Life in Male Patients with Prostate Cancer, Bladder, Colon and Rectum after Treatment and Their Partners

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Abstract

This cross-sectional study was to investigate the levels of partner's relationships before treatment, sexual health, and quality of life in male patients with prostate cancer, bladder cancer, or colon and rectum cancer after treatment as well as to detect relationships among variables. Sample consisted of 110 males with prostate cancer, bladder cancer, or colon and rectum cancer after treatment and their partners who came to the follow-up appointments at Lopburi Cancer Hospital, Ramathibodi Hospital, and Chonburi Cancer Hospital. A structured questionnaire was used and data were analyzed using Pearson's product - moment correlation coefficient.

The results of this study showed the sample had a high level of satisfaction with their relationship before treatment, a low level of sexual health, and a good level of quality of life in male patients, but a middle level in their partners. Correlations analysis among study variables showed that partner relationship before treatment of male patients cancer and their partners' relationship was positively related. ($r = .651, p < .001$) so as sexual health of male patients cancer and their relationships with their partners ($r = .371, p < .01$) in contrast with negative relationship between quality of life of male patients cancer and their partner ($r = -.603, p > .05$). It was also found that partner relationship before treatment was negatively related to sexual health after treatment (patients: $r = -.337, p < .05$; spouses: $r = -.287, p < .05$), partner relationship was positively related to quality of life after treatment (patients: $r = .466, p < .001$; spouses: $r = .282, p < .05$), and sexual health after treatment was negatively related to quality of life after treatment with statistical significance (patients $r = -.682, p < .001$) but the spouse was not related with statistical significance ($r = -.058, p < .001$)

The study findings can increase health providers understanding problems of partner relationship before treatment, sexual health, and quality of life in male patients of cancer. The findings can be used as information for appropriate plan of care to maximize greater benefits for male cancer patients and their partners to lead a healthy sexual relationship and pursuit good quality of life together.

Keywords: partner relationship, sexual health, quality of life, male with cancer

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