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The perception of sexual behavior in Taiwanese women after treatment for gynecological cancer

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Gynecological cancer survivors experience a broad range of sexual concerns after diagnosis and treatment, their perception about sex after treatment for gynecological cancer may influence their sexual adaptation and sexual relationship. The aim of this study was to explore the perception of sexual behavior and sexual myths of Taiwanese women after treatment for gynecological cancer. Data for this phenomenological study were collected during in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 11 women purposively recruited from outpatients of the gynecological clinic of a medical center in northern Taiwan. Interview data were analyzed using Colaizzi's method. Data analysis yielded two subthemes: "Interpretations of the appropriateness of sexual behavior during cancer treatment" and "Uncertainty about the appropriateness of sexual behaviors"; and recognized the sexual myths as: sex might threaten the cancer survivor's health, sex leads to cancer recurrence or death, and sex might negatively affect the sexual partner's health. This woman-centered view of the perception and sexual myths of Taiwanese gynecological cancer survivors can help healthcare professionals understand and educate their clients about women's sexual expression during and after cancer treatment.

Biography

Jian Tao Lee has completed his PhD from Institute of Health Education of National Taiwan Normal University. She is an Associate Professor at the School of Nursing in Chang Gung University, the Director of the Sex Education Association of Taiwan and Executive Editor of the *Formosan Journal of Sexology*. She has studied women's sexual health and sexual health education for more than 20 years, has also reviewed numerous manuscripts for a variety of nursing and sexual health journals, and has published more than 25 papers in this field.

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