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Factors affecting sexual function after radiotherapy for cervical cancer

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Objective: To specify clinicopathological risk factors that influence sexual function after radiotherapy for cervical cancer.

Methods: This observational and cross-sectional study includes a population of 60 adult women with stage I to III cervical cancer who underwent radiotherapy. Sexual function was assessed using a self-reported standardized questionnaire, the Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI). Age, clinical stage, tumor diameter, type of radiotherapy, use of hormone replacement therapy, and period of time elapsed since the completion of radiotherapy at the time of data collection were documented using participants' medical records. Multivariate logistic regression was used to identify independent risk factors for sexual morbidity.

Results: The median age of participants was 53 years (Interquartile range, IQR, 45-60 years). Using the FSFI total score compared by variable, sexual dysfunction was significantly more prevalent among women in FIGO stage III than those in stage I /II (P=0.038), and at \geq 12 months after the completion of radiotherapy than at <12 months after completion (P=0.008). Multivariate analysis revealed that sexual morbidity was significantly more likely in stage III women (OR 4.60, 95% CI, 1.07-24.39, P=0.040), or where radiotherapy had occurred more than 12 months before (OR 4.78, 95% CI, 1.17- 25.20, P=0.028).

Conclusion: FIGO stage III and a period of \geq 12 months after radiotherapy are associated with reduced sexual function. In medical consultations with women in these categories, adequate treatment should be provided where appropriate.

Biography

Yuko Harding has completed Post-doctoral studies from Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Graduate School of Medical Science, University of Ryukyus, Japan in 2014. She had been a Midwife/Nurse for 24 years. At present she is working as a Lecturer, Depertment of Nursing in Taisei Gakuin University.

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