



Information Needs of Breast Cancer Patients at Cancer Diseases Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia

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Abstract

Background: Breast Cancer is that the second commonest cancer worldwide and therefore the second commonest among Zambian women. Breast cancer diagnosis being a stressful experience, causes psychological and emotional disruption which will be abated by meeting information needs of the affected patients. In light of the escalating cases of carcinoma among the Zambian women, the study examined a special aspect of cancer management which is typically neglected in most cases.

Aim: the most objective of the study was to assess information needs of carcinoma patients at the Cancer Diseases Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia employing a modified structured interview schedule adopted from the Toronto Information Needs Questionnaire-Breast Cancer (TINQ-BC).

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional design was used to elicit the information needs of breast cancer patients. One hundred and ten (97% response rate) participants were selected using simple random sampling method and data was collected using a modified structured interview schedule adopted from the Toronto Information Needs Questionnaire-Breast Cancer (TINQ-BC). Stata 10.0 (StataCorp, 2008) was employed for all quantitative data analysis and graphical presentation of data.

Results: The overall score for information needs was obtained by adding the scores across all the five information needs categories which were further divided into three categories namely: low important scores, of but 50%, moderately important many 50% - 70% and highly important scores ranged above 70% of the 200 total scores. Out of the 110 participants recruited, 88 (80%) indicated that the information across the five categories was moderately important. Logistic regression of information needs and posited determinants revealed that anxiety levels; education level; presence of co-morbidity; and being on treatment were significant determinants of patients' informational needs (Effect's $p \leq 0.05$).

Conclusion: The findings of this study support the idea that breast cancer patients are seeking more information on their illness; hence information provision is one of the most important factors for providing top quality cancer care across the entire cancer continuum. Therefore, appreciating the information needs of breast cancer patients is substantial in improving care.

Biography

Beauty Namushi is currently working as Senior Nursing Officer and infection Prevention and Control Nurse at Cancer Diseases Hospital. Prior to her appointment as Senior Nursing officer she worked as Nursing Officer from September, 2018 to March, 2020. In addition, she has over 19 years of experience working as a Nurse. She is an enthusiastic, dynamic and professional nurse, who enjoys being part, as well as leading a successful and productive team. Beauty has a long history of mentoring nurses and student nurses in order to maintain high standards that other staff members can follow by inspiring and encouraging them to uphold the best practices when handling patients.



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