

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Follow-up care among patients who survived breast cancer, a scoping review to identify interventions for psycho-social and spiritual care; An integrated Personalized Care Approach.

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Introduction

One in every seven women is confronted with the diagnose breast cancer. Breast cancer is a major health burden worldwide, independently of the location in the world or social economic status.

The impact of breast cancer is besides physical also psychosocial and even existential for the patients. The uncertainty of recurrence of the cancer can have huge effect on the lives of women and their relatives. Breast cancer patients who are trying to integrate this life-event into their lives experience effect on their quality of life.

Psychosocial care, existential questions and spiritual care are the complex context in which the patient, the family and friends and also the caretakers have to understand the treatment and the healing of the patient who is confronted with the diagnose, therapy and impact of breast cancer. As a consequence, the coordination and delivery of psycho-social support is challenging.

The main research question of this article is therefore:

“What is the state of play of interventions for personalized psychosocial and spiritual care for women with breast cancer?”

Methods

In a scoping review we studied the state of play of psycho-social and spiritual care to breast cancer survivors. The complexity and the wide range of interpretations is multi interpretable. Therefore, in this scoping reviews we mapped literature on this broad topic to identify and describe studies for definitions and key concepts.

Results

Psycho-social care, existential items and spiritual care include a wide range of interventions. There was little result on interventions of the existential questions and spiritual care integrated in the treatment offered to patients with breast cancer and survivors. Systematic coordination of psycho-social care by different stakeholders is missing. The different aspects for the treatment and follow-up care for breast cancer patients are not well integrated and does not meet the needs of these patients. We found a variety of data on how

psychosocial en spiritual care is related to the treatment of breast cancer patients. Psychosocial care were related to diagnosis of illness within the DSM-V register. Most identified studies on social aspects were related to peer-support. Furthermore we found that the interventions were mostly conducted from a caregivers point of view, the needs of the patients weren't leading in the first place.

Conclusion

According to the multidisciplinary character of the treatment en follow-up care it is a necessity that the solutions are integrated and adapted between the professionals. The challenge will be to integrate different services taking the needs of the patients as a start in a personalized way. This scoping review is helpful in organizing and interpret the different views on additional follow-up care for breast cancer patients and survivors.

Suggestions for future research:

- Explore the needs for follow-up care of survivors of breast cancer
- Review spiritual care within integrated care.
- Research on development well-being models in integrated care.
- A Realist evaluation of implementation models for spiritual care in integrated care.