



Illness Perception of Chinese Colon/GI cancer patients

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Background

- Ethnic Chinese is the largest ethnic group globally.
- Cancer has been the leading cause of death in Chinese.
- Cultural backgrounds can influence cancer patients' health beliefs and behaviors.
- Illness perception can affect how patients manage and cope with their diseases.
- Based on prior study and literature in Chinese American, stigma is still attached with cancer.

Background (cont.)

- Lack of studies in the area related to cancer self-management in non-English speaking patients.
- Making standardized questionnaires available in Chinese cancer patients.
- Data Analysis from a study: “Illness Perception and Self-Care of Chinese Cancer Patients”
- A collaborative project funded by Fulbright Foundation.

Purpose

- This paper presents the results of illness perception reported from a sample of ethnic Chinese Colon/GI cancer patients in Taiwan.

Methods

- **Design:** Cross-sectional correlational
- **Setting:** Oncology infusion unit at a metropolitan medical center in northern Taiwan.
- **Sample:** Ethnic Chinese Colon and GI cancer patients who received active chemotherapy treatments were recruited after consent to participate in the study from May to August 2011. Study protocol was approved by IRB.

Methods (Cont.)

- **Instruments:** The Chinese version (traditional characters) of the revised illness perception questionnaire (IPQ-R) was used in the study (Moss-Morris et al., 2002).
- **Data Collection:** Participants were asked to complete the questionnaires. The interviewer's assistance is available.

Methods (Cont.)

- **Data analysis:** Data were entered in SPSS program. Data were recoded and analyzed based on the IPQ-R scoring method and subscale dimensions reported by Moss-Morris et al (2002).

Results

Sample Characteristics:

- N = 54
- Average age = 60 (SD = 10.75)
- 50% of females and 44% with college education and above
- 15% identified full-time or part-time working status
- 70% reported religious belief as Buddhism or Taoism
- 89% are married

Results (Cont.)

- 70% reported religious belief as Buddhism or Taoism
- 89% are married
- 57% reported spouse as primary caregiver
- KPS average score is 73 (SD = 1.22)
- 78% with diagnosis of colon/rectal cancer; 22% with diagnosis of gastric cancer

Results (Cont.)

Scale Dimensions	Mean (SD)
Timeline (Acute/Chronic)	20.67 (4.32)
Consequences	19.11 (4.08)
Personal Control	21.74 (4.73)
Treatment Control	17.93 (3.14)
Illness Coherence	18.57 (3.63)
Timeline cyclical	9.35 (3.10)
Emotional Representation	17.31 (4.15)

Results (Cont.)

- Possible Causes of illness

Top five possible causes of illness that participants agree:

- (1) Diet/Eating Habit
- (2) Stress/Worry
- (3) Chance/Bad Luck
- (4) Own Behaviors
- (5) Overwork

Discussion

- These Chinese Colon/GI Cancer patients perceived GI/Colon Cancer as a chronic condition with moderate to moderately negative consequences, and low cyclical nature.
- The participants also reported moderately positive beliefs about the controllability of Colon/GI Cancer.
- More studies are needed to support Chinese Cancer patients being self-efficacious and promote their quality of life during cancer treatments and survivorship.

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