



Patients' lived experience of chemotherapy after mastectomy: a phenomenological study

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Aims

The study discovered the chemotherapy patient's life experiences that were breast cancer after mastectomy, and understood patient's demand and the symptom distress, as well as the factor affect their life journey.

Results

Four main concepts through the case described in the context of the experience, they are as follows: **Embrace hope, Struggle for life, Reflect on life, and Meet in regret.** The added bonus is that patients appreciate the opportunity to express the feeling of suffering. Through the one-on-one talks between nursing staff and patients, the patients re-examine their past life, and re-establish the meaning of life.

Conclusions

The results of the study provide an important basis for the nursing staff who take care of this type (chemotherapy after mastectomy) of patients.

Method

This research used phenomenology research technique and semi-structural interview. The subjects confirmed to participate the study and signed the letter of consent. After the conversation, the record of the material copied out the writing. The case experience was faithful also the integrity presents by the writing, and accept any change or the fluctuation.

Study cases were from a medical center Taiwan, outpatient chemotherapy room, patient processed the end of chemotherapy. It was **40 cases**, the actual size of the sample size data analysis was no new case presented as the standard.

The selection criteria were as follows: breast cancer after surgery, chemotherapy, conscious clear, can talk in Mandarin or Taiwanese language, no mental illness, willing to participate in study and share life experience of adult women (aged over 20 years old).

The interview location was near the meeting room in the chemotherapy room. The reliability of the data was carefully selected cases, pre-interview skills training, control interview context, to establish interactive data analysis. Validity established by the recording interview and audio transcription quality control, interviews and analysis of information considered "deposit regardless of" principle, in order to reduce errors and to be objective. The expert review was considered to establish content validity and expert validity. This study used Giorgi & Giorgi (2003) proposed research procedures for data analysis.

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