Title: The sexual identity changes in patients with breast cancer and factors affecting it

Introduction: Breast cancer is the most common malignancy among women in the world and the number of cases is increasing. Iran is the most common malignancy in women, so that they constitute 76% of cancers. The fifth-leading cause of cancer death among women and causes about 1,200 deaths per year. Mastectomy could feel mutilation, impaired mental image of the body, reducing the attractiveness and sexual function and grounds for interference provide sex. The aim of this study was to evaluate gender identity in patients with breast cancer and the factors affecting it.

Methods: In a qualitative study of random method of sampling used. Data collection techniques in this study, interviews were semi-structured interviews. In an interview conducted a number of questions open were prepared. The data in this study through the coding was done in two stages open coding and axial coding.

Results: The results of the study consists of 3 floors. The first floor includes the expectations of the role. Second floor, lost sexual identity (identity crisis) and the following classes perceived physical changes, altered sexual behavior and identity crisis aggravating factors that the floor has 4 sub-categories of sexual behavior and partner expectation, perceived negative emotions and ability to role expectations, misconceptions about the disease. Third floor reconstruction gender role expectations that the modified classes, support and physical reconstruction efforts after the mastectomy.

Conclusion: Breast cancer and mastectomy for women's self-image and identity of femininity in all aspects of life disturbed that affect them. Marital problems that need support for its reconstruction, rehabilitation programs, counseling and follow-up.

Key words: breast cancer, mastectomy, gender identity