

Comparison of sexual function and some factors affecting in women with and without breast cancer

Abstract:

Background: Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and has the highest mortality rate among women worldwide. Among the problems that arise with the progress of treatment in breast cancer are issues related to quality of life. This disease can be an important factor in causing sexual problems due to the weakening of physical strength, reduced ability to perform daily activities, hospitalization of the patient and the resulting depression. Because breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and affects one of the most important female genitals. Therefore, the study of sexual and marital problems in breast cancer patients is extremely important. Therefore, this study was designed to determine the extent and type of sexual dysfunction and some factors affecting it in these patients and compare it with healthy women.

Aim: To determine sexual function and some factors affecting it in women with and without breast cancer.

Methods and material: A total of 80 healthy women and 80 women with breast cancer treated were included in the study. Data were collected using Demographic Information Questionnaire, Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI) and Post-Breast Body Image Questionnaire (BIBCQ).

Results: 160 people were included in the study who were divided into two groups of 80 people (healthy and sick). The mean age of the healthy group was 38.41 years with a standard deviation of 7.29 years and the mean age of the patient group was 39.46 years with a standard deviation of 5.46 years. Of sexual function variables; Sexual desire, psychological stimulation, moisture, satisfaction and sexual pain showed a significant difference between the affected and healthy groups ($P < 0.05$). There was no significant difference between orgasm index between the two groups ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Sexual function is higher in healthy individuals than in patients with breast cancer. In terms of body image, this finding had a higher score in people with higher education, which indicates a higher level of concern about body image in this group of people. Also, in the patients who were employed, a higher score was obtained than the unemployed and housewives, and showed that the employed patients were more concerned about their body image.

Keywords: sexual function, body image, breast cancer