

Body Image Psychological Characteristics and Hope in Women with Breast Cancer

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Abstract

Introduction: Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. This disease causes anxiety, depression, hopelessness and anger in these patients.

The purpose of this research was to interpret the psychological characteristics, and hope in women with breast cancer.

Method: In this quality research, 20 women, all of them suffer from breast cancer and are the patients of a medical center in Tehran in 2013, were chosen by purposive sampling. They were interviewed individually based on a semi- structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done based on the method of phenomenology and coding the transcripts of the interviews.

Results: The results of the analysis were divided into two parts including: psychological characteristics of these women and hope of these women toward future which includes hope toward future and new decisions and goals.

Conclusion: Some patients expressed positive psychological characteristics like extraversion, social minded, friendship, altruism, openness, spiritually oriented, positive thinking after treatments and some of them expressed negative psychological characteristics like anxiety, loneliness, depression, grief, anger, and hopelessness. Most of these women are: hopeless, agency thinking is weak in them, and don't have motivation for targeting and recognizing pathways to gain goals.

Keywords: Psychological Characteristics, Hope, Breast Cancer.