

Causes of Futile Treatment in Women with Breast Cancer

Fatemeh Bahramnezhad ^{1,*}, Mahmoud Shiri Kahno ²

¹ Department of Critical Care Nursing, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

² Biomedical Engineering Group, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

* Corresponding author: Fatemeh Bahramnezhad, Department of Critical Care Nursing, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. Tel: +98-9133974856. E-mail: bahramnezhad@sina.tums.ac.ir

DOI: 10.21859/mci-supp-98

Keywords:

Breast Cancer
Futile Treatment
Iran
Content Analysis

Abstract

Introduction: Patients with breast cancer experience physical and psychological damages. Breast cancer is painful and is accompanied by fear for most of the patients. Therefore, in most of the cases, despite futile treatments for patients, they want to continue the treatment. The present study aims to identify the hidden and apparent aspects of futile treatment in these patients.

Materials and Methods: This study was conducted in 2016 based on content analysis approach. Sampling was done purposefully using a semi-structured interview with 15 women with breast cancer. All interviews were analyzed after obtaining informed consent and implementation with the proposed method by Grantham and Landman. The duration of interviews was between 30 and 60 minutes and continued until data saturation.

Results: This study consisted of 15 patients including 11 married patients and 4 single patients. They aged between 34 and 60 years. Generally, 500 primary codes were extracted from the interviews and due to the conceptual approximation of codes, they were integrated and in sum, 6 main classes were obtained. "Maintaining the family", "lack of awareness", "religious beliefs", "compatibility with culture", "efforts to prove integrity", and "emphasis of the medical team" are the emerged classes in this study.

Conclusions: It seems that if awareness of people increases, cultural and religious beliefs of people will be modified. Accordingly, before any measure, it is necessary for the medical team to modify its approached regarding physical and spiritual supports for patients. Maybe, it is necessary to provide the patient with religious and psychological consultations and direct him or her toward palliative care.