

A Study to Assess the Quality of Life Among Women with Cervical Cancer Receiving Radiotherapy at SVIMS, Tirupati

Ayesha¹, C Usha Kiran²

How to cite this article:

Ayesha, C Usha Kiran. Quality of Life Among Women with Cervical Cancer Receiving Radiotherapy at Svims, Tirupati. Community and Public Health Nursing. 2019;4(3):155-156.

Abstract

Background of the study: Cervical cancer is the one of the most common cancer in women. Human papilloma virus (HPV) is the primary cause of cervical, anal, vulva, vaginal and penile cancers as well as genital warts. The quality of life of cervical cancer patients has captivated more and more attention. The quality of life at different clinical stages before and after therapy in order to provide and after therapy in order to provide evidence for preventing and treating cervical carcinoma¹. Non-experimental study was carried out to assess the quality of life among women with cervical cancer, in radiation oncology department, SVIMS, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. Data was collected from 100 women, taking radiation oncology treatment in radiation oncology department, SVIMS, Tirupati. Significant findings in the study revealed that among 100 women 38% (38) shows moderate level of quality of life, 25% (25) had low level of quality of life, 37% (37) had high level of quality of life. There is a significant association between level of quality of life among women with cervical cancer with menstrual history, no. of children, no. of fractions at $p < 0.01$ level. Age, family income, religion, type of surgery were associated at $p < 0.05$ level. The conclusion suggest that the women's having moderate level of quality of life receiving radiotherapy. The nurses in the hospital should workout a plan for educational programs based on their level of knowledge regarding quality of life among women with cervical cancer.

Keywords: Quality of life; Radiation oncology; Cervical cancer; Human papilloma virus.

Introduction

Cervical cancer is disease in which cancer cells are found in the cervix, the tissue of the cervix through changes in which abnormal cells begin to appear (a condition called dysplasia). Later, cancer

starts to grow and spread more deeply into the cervix and to surrounding areas.²

World wide, cervical cancer is both the fourth most common cause of cancer and deaths in women. In 2012, it was estimated that there were 5,28,000 cases of cervical cancer and 2,66,000 deaths. It was the second most common cause of female specific cancer after breast cancer according for around 8% of both total; cancer cases and total cancer deaths in women. Approximately 80% of cervical cancers occur in developing countries.³

The quality of life of cervical patients has captivated more and more attention. The morbidity, mortality and survival rate fail to accurately depict the quality of life of cervical cancer patients. The quality of life of patients with cervical cancer at different clinical stages before and after therapy in order to provide evidence for preventing and treating cervical carcinoma.⁴

Author's Affiliations: ¹M.Sc Nursing 2nd year, ²Assistant Professor, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Nursing, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh 517501, India.

Corresponding Author: C. Usha Kiran, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Nursing, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh 517501, India.

E-mail: uvsekharever@gmail.com

Received on 07.08.2019, **Accepted on** 04.09.2019



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Objectives of the study

- To assess the quality of life among women with cervical cancer.
- To notify the association between the demographic variables and quality of life among women with cervical cancer.

Materials and Methods

A descriptive research design was used to assess the quality of life among women with cervical cancer who are receiving radiation therapy at radiation oncology department at SVIMS, Tirupati. A total of 100 women's were selected by purposive sampling technique. The data collection was done with standardized questionnaire on quality of life among women with cervical cancer. Data were analyzed with the help of descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

Results revealed that most of the women's shows moderate level of quality of life. Among 100 women 38% (38) shows moderate level of quality of life, 25% (25) had low level of quality of life, 37% (37) had high level of quality of life (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of level of quality of life among women with cervical cancer. N =100

Assess the quality of life women with cervical cancer	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	SD
Low level QOL	25	25.0		
Moderate level QOL	38	38.0	2.12	0.782
High level of QOL	37	37.0		
Total	100	100		

Discussion

World wide cervical cancer is both the fourth most common cause of cancer and deaths from cancer in women. In 2012, it was estimated that there were 5,28,000 cases of cervical cancer, and 2,66,000 deaths. It was the second most common cause of female specific cancer after breast cancer

accounting for around 8% of both total; cancer cases and cancer deaths in women. Approximately 80% of cervical cancers occurs in developing countries. In low income countries it was the most common cause of cancer deaths. In developed countries, the wide spread use of cervical screening programme has dramatically reduced rates of cervical cancer.

Better survival rates have been driven the paradigm in the life-ltering burden of care from a medical illness model to a wellness model concerned with the quality of women's lives as well as the length of survival. The current reality of cancer survivors live. Quality of life (QOL) is one of the health outcomes that enables health care providers to better address the ongoing concerns of cancer survivors.

Conclusion

The women's having moderate level of quality of life receiving radiotherapy. The nurses in the hospital should workout a plan for educational programmes based on their level of knowledge regarding quality of life among women with cervical cancer. A wide spread network should be provided, which should focus on improving the quality of life among women. The study will help the health care professional to organize health education sessions on quality of life among women with cervical cancer receiving radiotherapy in radiation oncology department about hygienic practice and life style modifications.

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