

Nurses' Perspectives of the Supportive Care Needs of Men with Prostate Cancer

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Abstract

Background: Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer affecting men. Perceptions of oncology nurses regarding educational needs would assist in gaining more understanding of survivor needs and ultimately provide better quality care to individuals who have completed cancer treatment. **Objectives:** To investigate the nurses' point of view about the priority and the degree of importance of educational needs for prostate cancer patients. **Materials and Methods:** The current study used a descriptive design and was conducted at the chemotherapy and radiology center of Tishreen University Hospital in Lattakia City, Syria during 2020–2021. The study comprised 50 nurses in the chemotherapy department. Tools used in the study were adopted from the Toronto Informational Needs Questionnaire Cancer by the researchers to achieve the purpose of the study. **Results:** The majority of studied nurses (82%) aged between 30 and 40 years old, also about half of nurses (46%) were single, two third of nurses (66%) have preparatory degree, the highest ratio of nurses (60%) have from 1 to 5 years of experience, whereas the most of nurses (70%) have from 6 to 10 years of experience in general nursing; finally most of the nurses (78%) did not have any oncology training session. The results also found that there were a statistically significant differences in oncology nursing opinion according to their age, educational level, and years of experience in oncology nursing, whereas there were no statistically significant differences according to the marital status, years of nursing experience in general and training sessions. **Conclusion:** All the information needed by prostate cancer patients is of low importance from the studied nurses' point of view except the psychological needs with moderate importance. There is a high statistically significant difference in oncology nursing opinion according to the age, educational level, and years of experience.

Keywords: Nurses' perception, prostate cancer, supportive care needs

INTRODUCTION

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer affecting men. Yet, until recently, little had been written about prostate cancer, and men rarely discussed it with their colleagues, even though most men will experience some sort of problem with their prostate in their old age. Because of its location, problems with the prostate affect both the reproductive and urinary systems.^[1]

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men living in the UK, USA, and Europe.^[2,3]

Perceptions of oncology nurses regarding educational needs would assist in gaining more understanding of survivor needs and ultimately provide better quality care to individuals who have completed cancer treatment.^[4]

The assessment of the educational needs of prostate cancer patients by oncology nurses is critical to the

provision of holistic care. Educational interventions by oncology nurses would provide those patients with much-needed support to continue on the journey of coping with a life-threatening illness.^[3]

Patient information has been found to be one of the most important dimensions of patient-centered care. Meeting information needs increases treatment satisfaction and aids informed decision making.^[5]

Furthermore, the provision of disease-related information is an important determinant for patient-reported

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Submission: 28-May-2023 **Accepted:** 06-Jul-2023 **Published:** 23-Dec-2024

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How to cite this article: Abboud RM, Saker NS, Kadhim AK, Sahi MMS, Hussein HK, Hermis AH. Nurses' perspectives of the supportive care needs of men with prostate cancer. *Med J Babylon* 2024;21:865-8.

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DOI:
10.4103/MJBL.MJBL_646_23

health-related outcomes (e.g. treatment adherence, emotional and psychological health/well-being, quality of life).^[6]

According to the confusion the prostate cancer patient had after the diagnosis, and due to the lack of research regarding this topic, this study was conducted to investigate the nurses' point of view about the priority and the degree of importance of educational needs for prostate cancer patients, which enhances this difficult experience and introduction to answer all their questions and meet their needs.^[7]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive design was used to conduct this study. The study was carried out at chemotherapy and radiology center of Tishreen University Hospital in Lattakia City, Syria from July 29, 2020 to February 3, 2021. A non-probability (a convenience sample) was used, including (50) nurses at the oncology center working in the inpatient department who fulfilled the sampling conditions and provided direct care, with experience caring for prostate cancer patients.

The tool used in the study was modified by the researchers depending on Toronto Informational Needs Questionnaire of Breast Cancer^[8] constructed by the researchers to achieve the purpose of the study which include two parts: The first part consists of demographic data (age, marital status, educational level, years of experience in oncology nursing, years of nursing experience in general and training sessions). Second part: prostate cancer information needs questionnaire for studied nurses. The instrument comprised five domains (disease, treatment, investigative tests, psychosocial, and physical needs) which represent the main information needs which is measured by 45 items (questions). To determine the level of cognitive needs: each nurse has to answer each item of the questionnaire with one of the following answers (high importance, moderate importance, and low importance) and each answer is given a score as follows: (high important = 3, moderate importance = 2, and low important = 1) so the answer range is between 1 and 3 so, the range is $3 - 1 = 2$.

The tool was translated into the Arabic language by a specialist in English translation and revised by an Arabic

Table 1: Distribution of studied nurses according to their demographic data and differences in nurses' perception of patients' information needs according to their demographic variables

| Demographic variables | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------|------|-------|------------|----------------|
| Categories | Frequency <i>N</i> = 50 | %100 | M | SD | <i>F/t</i> | <i>P</i> value |
| Age | | | | | | |
| <30 years old | 9 | 18 | 1.34 | 0.239 | t0.767 | 0.008** |
| 30–40 years old | 41 | 82 | 1.53 | 0.178 | | |
| Marital status | | | | | | |
| Single | 23 | 46 | 1.56 | 0.190 | F1.776 | 0.165 |
| Married | 19 | 38 | 1.42 | 0.227 | | |
| Divorced | 2 | 4 | 1.47 | 0.108 | | |
| Widowed | 6 | 12 | 1.47 | 0.097 | | |
| Educational level | | | | | | |
| Nursing school preparatory grade | 33 | 66 | 1.41 | 0.184 | F9.448 | 0.000** |
| Nursing school secondary grade | 7 | 14 | 1.70 | 0.122 | | |
| Nursing Institute | 7 | 14 | 1.68 | 0.102 | | |
| Bachelor of nursing | 3 | 6 | 1.53 | 0.025 | | |
| Years of experience in oncology nursing | | | | | | |
| 1–5 years | 30 | 60 | 1.34 | 0.184 | F10.337 | 0.000** |
| 6–10 years | 1 | 2 | 1.39 | 0 | | |
| 11–15 years | 5 | 10 | 1.67 | 0.115 | | |
| More than 15 years | 14 | 28 | 1.65 | 0.112 | | |
| Years of nursing experience in general | | | | | | |
| 1–5 years | 9 | 18 | 1.47 | 0.206 | F0.215 | 0.886 |
| 6–10 years | 35 | 70 | 1.51 | 0.197 | | |
| 11–15 years | 5 | 10 | 1.44 | 0.276 | | |
| More than 15 years | 1 | 2 | 1.46 | 0 | | |
| Did you undergo oncology nursing training session? | | | | | | |
| Yes | 11 | 22 | 1.52 | 0.193 | T0.477 | 0.635 |
| Not | 39 | 78 | 1.49 | 0.206 | | |

T: refer to *t*-test (test for independent samples)

F: refer to one way ANOVA

***P* value \leq 0.01

expert. A panel of five experts in the related field was included in the determination of the questionnaire items' content validity. For reliability measurement, Cronbach's α reliability coefficient was 0.80, which showed that the questionnaire has an acceptable level of utility. Informed consent of the nurses was obtained after explanation of the purpose of the study. A pilot study was carried out for five nurses by distribution of self-reporting questionnaire and asked to answer it through 20 min. Revisions were completed before collecting the data, especially excluding the inappropriate items. Statistical analysis was carried out using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0 (SPSS, IBM Company, Chicago, IL, USA).

Ethical consideration

The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki. It was carried out with patients verbal and analytical approval before sample was taken. The study protocol and the subject information and consent form were reviewed and approved by a local ethics committee according to the document number 135 on 25 Feb, 2022.

RESULTS

Table 1 indicates that, the majority of studied nurses (82%) aged between 30 and 40 years old, also about half of nurses (46%) were single, two third of nurses (66%) have preparatory degree, the highest ratio of nurses (60%) have from 1 to 5 years of experience whereas most of nurses (70%) have from 6 to 10 years of experience in general nursing; finally the most of the nurses (78%) did not have any oncology training session. Also, this

table illustrates that there are very statistically significant differences in oncology nursing opinion according to their age, educational level, and years of experience in oncology nursing, whereas there were no statistically significant differences according to the marital status, years of nursing experience in general and training sessions.

Table 2 indicates that the total needs were as follows: about three quarter of nurses consider that the information needs of prostate cancer patients have low importance, and one quarter consider it with moderate importance.

Table 3 demonstrates that the ranking of the importance was as follows: psychosocial status, physical condition, investigative tests, treatment, and the diseases.

DISCUSSION

Prostate cancer patients want to know as much as possible about their disease and its treatment. Therefore, patients are strongly in need of advice from health providers, and most patients wish to be involved actively in the treatment decision process. It is therefore not surprising that satisfaction with information received on illness and therapy is positively correlated with the quality of life of prostate cancer patients after treatment.^[9,10]

The result of the current study indicated that the majority of nurses consider all information with low importance to prostate cancer patients. This result disagreed with the result of which illustrated that nurses rated the degree of importance of patients' information needs as high importance to cancer patients.^[11] Also, ranking of the importance was as follows: psychosocial status, physical

Table 2: Distribution of the studied nurses' perception according to the importance of information needs for prostate cancer patients

| Axes of information needs | | Degree of importance | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------|------|--------------|------|
| | | High (2.34-3) | | Medium (1.67-2.33) | | Low (1-1.66) | |
| | | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| 1. | Diseases | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12.0 | 44 | 88.0 |
| 2. | Investigative tests | 0 | 0 | 12 | 24.0 | 38 | 76.0 |
| 3. | Treatment | 0 | 0 | 14 | 28.0 | 36 | 72.0 |
| 4. | Physical condition | 0 | 0 | 13 | 26.0 | 37 | 74.0 |
| 5. | Psychosocial status | 2 | 4 | 24 | 48.0 | 24 | 48.0 |
| Total needs | | 0 | 0 | 14 | 28.0 | 36 | 72.0 |

Table 3: Arrangement of the importance of prostate cancer patients' information needs according to studied nurses' perception

| Axes of information needs | | M | SD | Arrangement | Degree of importance |
|---------------------------|---------------------|------|-------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Diseases | 1.32 | 0.244 | 4 | Low |
| 2. | Investigative tests | 1.49 | 0.275 | 3 | Low |
| 3. | Treatment | 1.49 | 0.291 | 3 | Low |
| 4. | Physical condition | 1.52 | 0.304 | 2 | Low |
| 5. | Psychosocial status | 1.72 | 0.450 | 1 | Medium |
| Total needs | | 1.49 | 0.202 | | Low |

condition, investigative tests, treatment and the diseases which on opposite of the result of with rank: disease, followed by treatment, physical care, investigative tests and psychosocial needs.^[12] In the current study according to the most important axes of information needs psychosocial status was the most important from the nurses' point of view. This result agreed with who found that nurses ranked psychological needs as the most problematic area for patients.^[13] The current study illustrated that there were very statistically significant differences in oncology nursing opinion according to age, educational level, and years of experience in oncology nursing, while there were no statistically significant differences according to marital status, years of nursing experience in general and training sessions. On the opposite of this result, the study found that no relationship was found between demographic characteristics and nurses' perceptions regarding the information need of patients.^[14] Based on reviewing the previous literature we concluded that many studies dealt with the cancer patient's needs from his point of view but very few studies discussed the prostate cancer patients' needs, especially from a nurse's point of view, on consideration the importance of nurses in bridging the knowledge gap that most prostate cancer patients suffer from.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It can be concluded from the study that studied nurses consider all prostate cancer patients' information needs with low importance and there is a very statistically significant differences in nursing opinion according to the age, educational level, and years of experience. So the researcher recommended to perform more researches about prostate patient's information needs from his point of view. Design a training program for nurses to fulfill the prostate cancer patients' information needs. Nursing faculty and schools should pay more attention to the cancer domain in the curriculum. Establish postgraduate studies specialized in oncology nursing.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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