

Study on psychological, socio-demographic and economic factors among the patients with common gynecological malignancies, attending the oncology clinic at Teaching Hospital Jaffna and Thellipalai Trail Cancer Hospital

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Background: Cancer is a major health problem in Sri Lanka as well as worldwide. Incidence of common gynecologic cancer is increasing and mortality is also significant in Sri Lanka. There are limited studies and information about the supportive care facilities, common perceived psychological factors and association with socio-demographic and economic issues which are affecting them and type of assistances need in coping with those factors and accessibility of supportive care services of gynecological cancer survivors. The objective of this study is to assess the selected psychological, socio-demographic, economical factors and the influence of socio economic factors on perceived psychological problems among the patients with common gynecological malignancies, attending the oncology clinic of Teaching Hospital Jaffna and Thellipalai Trail Cancer Hospital.

Methods: Cross sectional descriptive institutional based study was conducted among 103 gynecologic cancer survivors attending the oncology clinic of Teaching Hospital Jaffna and Thellipalai Trail Cancer Hospital during November 2017 to March 2018. Interviewer administered questionnaire was used to collect the data. HAD scale was used to assess the depression and anxiety.

Results:In this study population 55 (53.4%) women were having cervical cancer, 31 (30.1% women with ovarian cancer, endometrial cancer patients were 15 (14.6%) and only two (1.9%) of them having vulval cancer. Their age groups ranged from minimum of 22 years and Maximum of 78 years. Mean age of that population was 55.9 years with the standard deviation of 12.2. Highest numbers of patient were in 51-65 age range and that was 49 (47.6%) Among them 57 (55.3%) patients were assessed to have anxiety and 63(61.8%) patients among them. When cross tabulation was done between different socio demographic and economic factors of the cancer survivors with anxiety and depression, the following factors were found out to be significant with associated P value less than 0.05: Civil status of cancer patients, duration from diagnosis, educational qualification.

Conclusion; This present study revealed that the gynecological cancer patients' most of the psychosocial and economic factors were under addressed and poorly met due to the various reasons. The prevalence of anxiety and depression amongst cancer patients was high showing that importance should be given to screening and counseling cancer patients for anxiety and depression, to help them cope with cancer as a disease and its impact on their mental wellbeing and outcome of the treatment.

Key words: Gynecological malignancies, psychological, Jaffna, Thellipalai