

reduces patient anxiety, increases their comfort and improves compliance in a screening program. Psychological studies suggest that both abstract and realistic paintings may be effective in achieving these goals.

The author finds that abstract paintings, which requires the observer to interpret forms or to follow lines, are most effective.

In order to maintain a high level of patient interest in the ceiling painting, it should be replaced periodically (every one to two years).

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POSTER

Psychological and clinical quality of life determinants among women with breast cancer in different stages

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Purpose: Determine psychological and clinical factors which are the most important for QL of breast cancer women in different stages of disease.

Material: 88 women with the diagnosis of breast cancer: 29 in diagnostic stage, 37 – first treatment, 13 – recurrence, 9 – terminal.

Methods: 1. Self-Anchoring Ladder, 2. EORTC QLQ-30, 3. Hospital and Anxiety Scale, 4. Purpose of Life Test by J.G. Croumbaugh and L.T. Maholick.

Results: Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS for Windows by multiple regression. Global Quality of Life was established as a Variable Dependent. Variables Independent was following: anger, depression, anxiety, purpose of life, age, level of functioning (physical, cognitive, emotional, social) and symptoms (fatigue, nausea, vomiting, pain, dyspnea, sleep disturbances, appetite loss, constipation) as well as financial conditions. For the variability of QL the following factors were important: purpose of life, fatigue, depression, emotional functioning. This variables explained 63.2% of QL variance. In diagnostic stage the important role played purpose of life, pain and fatigue – 60.3% variance. During first treatment – purpose of life, pain and psychological functioning explained 59.1% of variance. In terminal stage the important Variable Dependent was purpose of life. It explained 82.9% of variance on QL scale.

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POSTER

The influence of the early childhood family climate on later breast cancer morbidity

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Purpose: Numerous psychosomatic survey results show that the cancer morbidity, between other ethiological factors, is influenced by the family climate in early childhood. In our study we tried to help in early detection of breast cancer or to find the risk group, by using FAQ (Family Attitude Questionnaire).

Methods: Three hundred-and-sixty-three patients with breast cancer and the same number of patients in a control group, in the complete area of Slovenia, were included in study. The control group was matched to the breast cancer group by age, sex, education and area. The interview method was used and all data were put in FAQ questionnaire. The answers were pondered and collected by groups to evaluate the following parameters: CTP (Closeness to Parents), D (Emotional demonstrativity) and MD (Matriarchal Dominance). AVG (average) and STD (Standard deviation) was calculated for every group.

Results:

| Pts. | CTP | D | MD | Contr. | CTP | D | MD |
|------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| AVG | 4.931 | 2.033 | -1.455 | AVG | 4.756 | 1.900 | -1.232 |
| STD | 4.341 | 1.388 | 2.351 | STD | 4.585 | 1.410 | 2.475 |

There are no significant differences between groups.

Conclusion: Our study has not confirm the other studies' result. This could be caused by a different role of family and different relations in it in our country. Our data does not confirm FAQ as method for early detection of breast cancer or detection of risk groups. We believe that psychological factors are important in breast cancer initiation, promotion and treatment, given that the whole human personality in interaction with surroundings is taken into account. For such an evaluation FAQ is insufficient.

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POSTER

The meaning of life with women after breast cancer treatment

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Purpose: The purpose of this research was to find out to what degree the life of women after breast cancer treatment had been fulfilled with the meaning of life and represented good basis for mental health.

Method: the research encompasses 129 women who are included in the support groups in Slovenia. The meaning of life was measured by means of psychological test for measuring of the life meaning – Logo-test (E. Lukas) enabling reliable statements on fulfilment of inner meaning.

Results: At the logo-test the women achieved $x_{sr} = 11.89$ and $\sigma = 3.65$ which ranked them in good life meaning.

In the second part of empirical research was determined the structure of variables which measure the feelings of the life meaning. Factor analysis excluded 5 factors that explain fundamental structure of logo-test. Correlations between individual sub-tests of the logo-test and the age indicated that older patients are more aware that they should never give up hope. They are also aware of great effect that good experiences have on one's life.

Conclusion: The women after breast cancer treatment experience their life as meaningful, which confirms the basic thesis of logotherapy that even in fatal conditions such as breast cancer despair does not take over, but they choose life with great "defiance and strength of spirit".

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POSTER

Stages of breast cancer: An Israeli psychosocial medical of intervention

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The Breast Health Center, in the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center is the first center in Israel, that provides medical and psychosocial services under the same roof. Psychosocial intervention by a social worker specialist in health and breast-care is given as part of the holistic treatment to women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. This presentation describes a model of psychosocial intervention which follows step by step the three phases of medical intervention: diagnosis, surgical intervention, and recovery. The model is based on the assumption that each phase involves specific stressors that require distinctive adjustment and coping mechanisms. This approach is, therefore, proposing a focused intervention according to differing psychosocial needs of women in each phase of the medical treatment.

Friday, 2 October 1998

16:00-18:00

POSTERS ONLY

Symptom control

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POSTER

Proteolytic enzymes in prevention and treatment of lymphatic oedema of arm after axillary dissection or radiotherapy

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Purpose: Lymphoedema of the arm in breast cancer pts as a side effect of curative treatment appears acc. to various authors in 7–30%. Proteases show pharmacological effects on almost all pathophysiological mechanisms causing lymphoedema.

Method: Combination of plant and animal proteases were used: papain, bromelain, trypsin, chymotrypsin, together with pancreatin, lipase and rutosid. Drugs are administered orally but they act systematically. The indication was either prophylactic after breast surgery with axillary dissection or therapeutic immediately after occurrence of first signs of oedema. Combination with physical procedures was used in some cases.