QUIET ISSUE OF CANCER; SEXUALITY

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SEXUALITY IS NOT JUST SEX!!!

Sexuality, one of the basic needs, is much more than entering sexual intercourse. Being close to a partner can make people acceptable, lovable and "whole" as it can increase self-esteem and feelings of being male or female. Furthermore, it can help people cope better with many difficulties of life. Sexuality and sincerity is a glue that strengthens our emotional attachment with our partner and is closely related to happiness, relationship and general satisfaction .

SEXUALITY AND CANCER

Unfortunately, any kind of cancer treatment can potentially affect sexual function. 40-100% of patients with cancer of varying types reported sexual dysfunction at high rates . In a survey conducted by the Livestrong Foundation with more than 2,300 cancer patients under 55 years of age, 46% of participants had sexual problems in their first year of treatment and fewer than one of four in the group asked for professional help

SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION IN CANCER

Many women who experience new or worsening sexual dysfunction after cancer are not alerted that the symptoms of cancer or treatment are a possible cause. As a result, many women (and partners) remain silent and remain interested in sexual function problems that may no longer be completely irreversible due to delay.

In studies of cancer types, it is estimated that the prevalence of post-cancer female sexual dysfunction is 37-75% .

NOTE!!!

According to WHO data, the most common type of cancer in men is lung and prostate cancers . Prostate cancer and its treatment can affect sexual function, especially because the prostate has important relevant functions for the sex

Possible dysfunction types according to treatment options in males and females;

1. Dysfunction due to surgery
2. Dysfunction caused by androgen suppression therapy
3. Radiotherapy-induced dysfunction

Sexuality, which is a normal course of life, is also greatly affected in the cancer process, but usually both patients and health professionals are reluctant to talk about it.

The aim of nursing care is a holistic patient approach.

Nurses should be able to assess sexuality as part of holistic care and provide support for patients. Because of this, nursing education should also focus on the problem of sexuality of the patients.

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