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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study, a quantitative survey, was to identify the information needs of gynecological cancer patients in Hong Kong. Forty subjects in the outpatient department and oncology wards of a regional hospital were selected by convenience sampling. The patients were undergoing one of the first three follow-Up visits after completion of the first course of treatment.

The questionnaire used was modified from Grahn and Johnson (1990). It consisted of three parts. Part I was concerned with the information need of gynecological cancer patients. In part II, patients were asked to prioritize the needs stated in Part I. Part Iff was on demographic data.

The results showed that 90% of the subjects wanted to learn more about "symptom of recurring illness" while 60% of the patients wanted to know about the nature of cancer, treatment, daily care and psychological aspects. Less than 55% of the patients wanted to learn more about family, social, career, spiritual and community resources and services. It is noteworthy that only 40% indicated the needs to know more about "change in sexual life ". The learning about cancer and treatment were the most important aspects for patients in the prioritized list while the aspect of "community resources and services" was the least important.

The study recommends that more information should be given to patients to meet their information needs. The role of nurses in patient education is explored. The researcher suggested that it should be emphasized and promoted. Further in-depth studies are suggested to explore information need on areas of concern, and the possible reasons affecting the image of nurses on patients' education.