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The Perception of Care Needs by Women with Breast Cancer after Surgery

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Background: The breast cancer is the most frequent neoplasm in women: one malignant tumor every three (29%) is mammary. The identification and analysis of individual needs would allow to plan, care and focus on them and to guarantee targeted interventions in a multidisciplinary context with positive clinical outcomes and a better quality of life.

Objective: To investigate the perception of own needs by women and the nurse's perception of them.

Design: Qualitative and quantitative descriptive study.

Setting: A breast surgery unit.

Method: We conducted a semi-structured interview aimed at nurses and we administered a questionnaire of 57 items to women who had undergone surgery for breast cancer.

Results: 11 nurses were interviewed and 81 women were involved. The majority of women stated that it is extremely important to have complete information during diagnosis, in agreement with the nurses (11/11), who also believed that at the time of diagnosis the woman must receive all the needed information. From the communication of the diagnosis to the end of the treatment, the interviewees have assessed that almost all the needs proposed in 57 items are extremely important with particular reference to clear communication with the professionals, as well as to know, the time that is going to take to get rid of the disease.

Conclusions: The transmission of information must respect the cultural background and the global capacity allowing women to participate in decisions that affect their health.

Biography:

P. Di Giacomo, RN, RM, MSN, PhD. has clinical experience in midwifery care [oncology prevention, maternal-child health in obstetric care] and in critical nursing care. She also has past professional experience in nursing management. Now, she is a tutor and adjunct professor of nursing research and ethics and deontology in nursing first cycle degree/Bachelor, Campus of Rimini, Bologna University-health Company Romagna-Rimini, Italy. She has published more than 15 papers in reputed journals and some books. She is a reviewer for some peer review journals.