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The role of nurses in improving the quality of life assessment in breast cancer patients

It is difficult to measure and define the quality of life. Quality of life in patients with breast cancer is an important outcome. The quality of life data provided scientific evidence for clinical decision-making and conveyed helpful information concerning breast cancer patients'. Although quality of life assessments have been employed successfully in descriptive and evaluative studies in oncology, their use in cancer clinical trials has, to date, been limited. As part of a study on quality of life in breast cancer patients, an extensive literature search was carried out using MEDLINE, EMBASE, the Science Citation Index (ISI), the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), the PsycINFO, the Allied and Complementary Medicine (AMED) and Global Health databases. The intention was to review all full publications that have been appeared in English language biomedical journals between 1974 and 2013. The use of proxy raters of patients' quality of life has been suggested as a means of facilitating the factoring of quality-of-life considerations explicitly into the medical decision-making process and of resolving the problem of missing data in longitudinal quality-of-life investigations. The paper also concluded that it is not only the study of quality of life in newly diagnosed breast cancer patients that is necessary; studying quality of life in long-term survivors is equally important.

Biography

Emi John Prince is an Associate Professor, completed her PhD in Nursing Science from Vinayaka Missions University, Tamil Nadu. She is nationally and internationally recognized in the areas of maternity nursing. She is the Course Coordinator for Postgraduate studies in Nursing at Institute of Health and Management at NSW. As a Midwife, she works part time at Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane. Her research and scholarly pursuits are in the areas of maternal health and women's health. She has published her work widely and has written many articles. She is also actively involved in extended professional role as External Examiner (Adjudicator) for PhD thesis for many of the universities.

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