

Title The Effect of Supportive-educative Nursing System on
the Quality of Life in Cervical Cancer Patients
Receiving Radiotherapy.

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Abstract

This Quasi-experimental research was designed to evaluate the effectiveness of supportive-educative nursing system on the Quality of Life among cervical cancer patients receiving radiotherapy. Purposive sampling was used to select the subjects according to the predetermined criteria. The first 34 subjects who received radiotherapy from July to November 1989 were assigned to the control group, whereas the later 34 subjects who received therapy from January 1989 to June 1990 were in the experimental group. Subjects in both groups received usual care provided in the setting, but subjects in the experimental group received additional supportive-educative nursing system according to Orem's nursing theory. Quality of Life was measured by the Quality of Life Index developed by Padilla and Grant (1985). Information needed and received were assessed by the instrument developed by Mood (1985). Furthermore, the qualitative data pertained to the relationships with the husbands was also obtained.

Results of the study showed that the mean score on Quality of Life during radiotherapy for the experimental group was not significantly different from the control group. However, at the last week of the radiotherapy, the mean score on Quality of Life for the experimental group was significantly higher than for the control group ($p < .05$). Furthermore the subjects in the experimental group reported higher mean score on information received than for the control group ($p < .01$). Qualitative data revealed that many younger women complained of receiving less support from their husbands. The findings support Orem's nursing system Theory in improving Quality of life. Implication for clinical practice, education and future research are proposed.