ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Relationship Between Attachment Style to God and Depression Among Female Breast-Cancer Patients: The Mediating Role of Illness Perception

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Abstract

Introduction: Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women, which causes depression in the affected patients. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between attachment style to God and depression in women with breast cancer, and the mediating role of illness perception.

Methods: The participants of this study were 397 women with breast cancer presenting to the oncology and chemotherapy wards of Firoozgar, Pars, and Imam Khomeini hospitals and Mahdiyeh Medical Center in Tehran between 2016 and 2017. This study employed convenience sampling technique. The data were collected by administering Attachment-to-God Questionnaire, Illness Perception Questionnaire, Beck Depression Inventory. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics (structural equation modeling based on path analysis) in SMART PLS.

Results: Direct correlation co-efficients were 0.73, 0.37 and 0.92 between illness perception and variables of avoidance attachment style, anxiety attachment and safe attachment to God, respectively. Direct correlation co-efficients were 0.42, -0.23, -0.22 and -0.47 between depression and variables of disease safe attachment perception, avoidance attachment style, anxiety attachment and safe attachment to God, respectively while their indirect co-efficients with avoidance attachment style, anxiety attachment and safe attachment to God were 0.08, -0.07 and 0.08, respectively.

Conclusion: The results revealed that attachment to God impacts depression of women with breast cancer both directly and indirectly through illness perception.

Keywords: Breast Cancer, Attachment Style to God, Illness Perception, Depression