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Relationship between Dyadic Coping and Marital Quality in Women with Breast Cancer in Shiraz

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Abstract

Introduction: Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women, which has adverse effects on marital life and reduces patient's quality of life. Cancer is a dyadic stressor, therefore, it is necessary for couples to react to it. Hence, this research aimed to investigate the relationship between dyadic coping and marital quality in women with breast cancer.

Methods: This descriptive correlational study recruited a sample of 132 married women with breast cancer from the breast cancer clinics of Shiraz, who voluntarily participated in the study. The instruments used to collect the data included the Chinese Marital Quality Scale (Zhang, Xu, & Tsang, 2012), Dyadic Coping Inventory (Bodenmann, 2008), and demographic characteristics questionnaire.

Results: The results revealed a significant relationship between dyadic coping strategies and marital quality stress in married women with breast cancer ($p<0.01$, $r = 0.79$) and dyadic coping strategies were able to positively and significantly predict marital quality.

Conclusion: The results showed that dyadic coping strategies play an important role in marital quality of married women with breast cancer. Therefore, given the positive relationship between dyadic coping and marital quality, couples experience higher marital quality as they cooperate more to deal with the stress associated with cancer.

Keywords: Marital Quality, Dyadic Coping, Breast Cancer.