ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Mediating Role of Supportive Dyadic Coping in the Association between Stress and Marital Adjustment in Women Undergoing Treatment for Breast Cancer

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Abstract

Introduction: Stress due to cancer diagnosis leads to marital conflict and negatively affects couple interactions, relationship satisfaction, and marital adjustment. Studies have demonstrated the effective role of dyadic coping in the association between stress and marital adjustment. The purpose of this study was to investigate the predictive and mediating role of supportive dyadic coping in the relationship between stress and marital adjustment in women undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Methods: The study population consisted of women undergoing treatment for breast cancer in Shiraz and Mashhad. The sample included 186 volunteers who participated in this study. In this study, the Perceived Stress Scale, Dyadic Adjustment Scale, and Dyadic Coping Inventory were used for collecting data. Data were analyzed using multivariate regression and structural equations.

Results: The results showed that supportive dyadic coping by oneself and by the partner could positively and significantly predict marital adjustment. Additionally, supportive dyadic coping by oneself and by the partner completely mediated the relationship between stress and marital adjustment.

Conclusion: Supportive dyadic coping by oneself and by the partner plays a very important role in the relationship between stress and marital adjustment in women. Therefore, supportive dyadic coping not only reduces the negative effects of stress on marital adjustment and quality, but it can improve marital adjustment.

Keywords: Perceived Stress, Marital Adjustment, Supportive Dyadic Coping, Breast Cancer