



Validity and reliability of the Comfort Assessment Breast Cancer Instrument in breast cancer palliative care

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KEYWORDS

Breast cancer;
Comfort assessment;
Palliative;
Face validity

Abstract

Indonesia is a developing country and most breast cancer patients present with terminal conditions, including discomfort. Comfort is a crucial component of nursing in palliative care, especially in breast cancer patients. However, this condition is difficult to assess and therefore assign as a diagnosis. Some comfort assessment tools have been developed in other countries are found not appropriate for an Indonesian context. This study is a sequence of prior qualitative research regarding a comfort assessment tool to be developed in Indonesia. This study piloted the comfort assessment tool in 55 patients with breast cancer to test if it is valid, reliable, and easy to use. This cross-sectional study was conducted at an Army hospital in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Comfort Assessment Breast Cancer Instrument measured many aspect of the patient comfort level including physical, psycho-social, cultural-spiritual, finance, and environmental comfort using a Likert scale from 1-4 and 34 items. Data were processed using statistical software. The face validity test yielded coefficient α of 0.299-0.691, while the reliability test produced a reasonably good result as well ($\alpha = 0.912$). Therefore this measure should be further assessed by an expert panel and including construct validity.

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Introduction

The number of breast cancer patient who are in advanced stage at the time of diagnosis is high in Indonesia. According to GLOBOCAN (IARC), breast cancer was the most common cancer in 2012 with incidence of 43.4% and a mortality rate of 12.9%¹. This high number of patients with

advanced breast cancer in Indonesia also related to the region's culture and values. Indonesian people choose to try to treat the condition themselves by using traditional therapy². They do not visit healthcare facilities unless that treatment or alternative therapy fails, so the cancer diagnosis is not made until the cancer is already in an advanced stage. Moreover, financial problem is one of some factors

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for breast cancer patients in Indonesia that makes a late-ness of diagnosis and it affects the delay of treatment³. Around 60% of breast cancer patients admitted to Dharmas Cancer Hospital in Indonesia had an advanced stage of cancer⁴.

Comfort is an important aspect should be a component of all cancer patients' palliative care, including breast cancer patients. Generally, cancer patients and their families experience comfort disruption, while the nurses have also reported difficulty in establishing its diagnosis since there is

currently no instrument of comfort assessment that is suitable for cancer patients in Indonesia.

Some indicators of physical discomfort can be observed and measured, and these variables are not only physical, but also psychological. Therefore, discomfort variables including to a latent variable group that requires special technique to ensure its identification. Several studies have described instruments designed comfort and the effectiveness of palliative care, including the Problems and Needs in Palliative Care Questionnaire (PNPC) which was devel-

Table 1 The result of validity and reliability of Comfort Assessment Breast Cancer Instrument

No	Questions	Total correlation
1	I am lack of power	0.400
2	I feel nausea	0.446
3	Because of physical condition, I feel difficult to meet my family needs (like cooking, take care of children and etc.)	0.429
4	I was disturbed by side effect of treatment	0.378
5	I feel sick	0.338
6	My appetite is lack	0.421
7	I frequently feel dizziness	0.516
8	I feel my mouth and skin are very dry	0.471
9	I am perforce to be bed rest	0.477
10	I feel soon to be tired	0.419
11	I feel sad	0.654
12	I feel hopeless to combat my disease	0.430
13	I feel agitated	0.671
14	I feel anxious about death	0.585
15	I am worried my condition will get worse	0.638
16	I am worried my family will experience the same disease	0.353
17	I feel angry	0.619
18	I feel lonely	0.325
19	I experience some changes that make my feeling is not comfortable	0.641
20	I am afraid with the treatment for me	0.471
21	I feel bored in running the treatment	0.514
22	I feel more sensitive	0.608
23	I feel dependent to other people	0.528
24	I feel shame because of my sickness makes other life's disrupted	0.691
25	I don't want to discuss my sickness because I am afraid to burden other	0.412
26	I am frighten my family	0.468
27	I am worry about cost of treatment	0.299
28	I am worry about transportation cost to hospital	0.464
29	I am worry about life cost along treatment	0.405
30	Sickness makes me lose my income	0.361
31	I feel disturbed with hospital environment	0.323
32	I can't stand to stay in hospital environment	0.393
33	I don't like with the smells of my environment	0.313
34	I feel comfort with hospital environment	0.362

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