



Lived Experiences of Women with Breast Cancer who Undergone Radiation

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INTRODUCTION — □ ×

For those who have never personally faced cancer, the word "cancer" conjures images of pain, suffering, and death. On the other hand, cancer patients described cancer as a bad event, and coping with it is even worse (Joseph, 2017).

Previous research has been done on the lived experiences of women with breast cancer in other nations, but according to Van Manen (2016), each experience is unique and the voices of those who are experiencing a phenomenon silently must be heard

OBJECTIVE — □ ×

This study aims to determine the lived experiences of women with breast cancer who have undergone radiotherapy treatment. In this case, the study seeks to answer these specific questions:

1. What are the lived experiences of women with breast cancer before radiotherapy treatment?
2. What are the lived experiences of women with breast cancer after radiotherapy treatment?

METHODOLOGY — □ ×

A semi-structured interview with open-ended questions was used to gather responses from the respective participants. The interview data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

RECOMMENDATION — □ ×

This study recommended greater number of participants, deeper questions, expand resources, more case studies about lived experience in the rural areas, taking into consideration about ethnicity, age, socioeconomic level, and length of treatment, expand the topic like comparative study about radiotherapy and chemotherapy, and younger patients.

FINDINGS — □ ×

1. Participants experienced different signs and symptoms, such as a lump in the breast, itchy nipples, and breast pain.
2. The participants acknowledged that after knowing their diagnosis, they want to surrender their life, leave it all to God, feel overwhelmed about the future, think of death, and find it hard to accept their reality or denial about their situation.
3. The participants also shared how they think right away about where to get financial assistance after knowing their diagnosis because they know the medication is costly.
4. Regarding their social aspect, they experience good changes, such as closer family relationships, and become more caring throughout their cancer journey.
5. Good changes also happened to their spiritual aspect because they started to serve God. After all, they are very grateful they survived cancer, and their faith became stronger and closer relationship with Him despite the serious problem that they are facing.
6. The participants also received good treatment from health care providers. They said that they are very hands-on with them, attentive to their needs, friendly like they don't only treat them as patients, very kind and caring all the time.

