

The relationship between chemotherapy and the anxiety level among female mastectomy patients at the Alexandria Main University Hospital

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The sample of the study covers 100 consecutive female mastectomy patients, alert, aged 25-50 years, attending the radiotherapy outpatient clinic of Alexandria Main University Hospital and requiring adjuvant chemotherapy treatment. An Arabic questionnaire interview sheet is developed to assess the patient's knowledge. It includes items related to patient's identification data, and items related to nature of the illness, chemotherapeutic regime used, its purpose, action, schedule of chemotherapy and its duration, potential side effects and the laboratory tests requested prior to and during chemotherapy treatment. Anxiety scale adapted and validated in Arabic by Fahmy & Ghaly, is used to assess the level of anxiety as expressed by individuals. These two tools are applied to all sample patients three times, once prior to administration of any chemotherapeutic treatment, second at the end of the first cycle after 4 weeks and at the end of the third cycle after 12 weeks from the start of chemotherapy treatment.