



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Social networks, Social support and cancer treatments experiences among prostate cancer patients at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) at Accra

Category:

Non-communicable diseases including mental health

Authors:

Dowuona Rebecca Essah and Awolu Adams

Objectives:

The study explored the impact of social networks and support on prostate cancer treatment among patients in specialist hospitals within the Accra Metropolitan area.

Method:

Using a phenomenological design, which focuses on lived experiences, a purposive sampling method was used to recruit 10 prostate cancer patients from Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. Data was collected through in-depth interviews, and thematically analyzed using ATLAS.ti software. The study focused on key themes, including financial support, emotional support, social challenges, healthcare access, and coping strategies.

Results:

The results show that prostate cancer patients experience financial strain due to the high costs of treatment; emotional and mental distress; and challenges in navigating the health system. Financial, emotional, tangible, and information support from family and friends played a crucial role alleviating financial burden, in managing stress and improving overall well-being. Social networks played critical role in facilitating healthcare access, particularly through medical referrals and assistance with transportation.

Conclusion:

The critical positive impact of various social support systems, particularly those involving family and close friends, in managing the challenges associated with prostate cancer treatment is highlighted. The need for research on comprehensive support programs that address both the financial and emotional needs of chronic disease patients is underscored

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