



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

The Impact of Social Support and Networks on the Treatment Experiences of Women with Cervical Cancer in Ghana

Category:

Non-communicable diseases including mental health

Authors:

Ms. Rufai Fawzia and Dr. Awolu Adam

Objectives:

This study aimed to explore the impact of social support and networks on the experiences of women undergoing cervical cancer treatment in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana.

Method:

This phenomenological study involved eight cervical cancer patients at the National Radiotherapy, Oncology, and Nuclear Medicine Centre in Accra. Participants were selected through purposive and convenience sampling, and data were collected through semi-structured face-to-face interviews. Thematic analysis was conducted using Atlas.ti software.

Results:

Findings revealed a wide range of social support networks among participants, with family members playing a key role in providing emotional and financial assistance. While some participants had access to significant support, others faced minimal assistance, particularly from community and religious organizations. Financial strain remained a major challenge, and participants frequently expressed the need for more consistent financial and emotional support. Social networks also facilitated healthcare access through referrals and logistical help, such as transportation to medical appointments.

Conclusion:

Family and close-knit social support systems are essential in helping women cope with the challenges of cervical cancer treatment. However, structured initiatives are needed to enhance both financial and emotional support. Future studies should focus on expanding geographic reach to capture more diverse populations.

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