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The needs of prostate cancer patients and their partners

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Abstract

Prostate cancer affects a significant number of men, and is in fact the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men in South Australia (accounting for 29.2% of all cancers). Nationally, it is also the most common cancer diagnosed in males, apart from non-malignant skin cancer. Given this high incidence, it is pleasing that the 5-year relative survival rate is high This survival rate leads to the need to consider the quality of life of men following their cancer treatments. Unfortunately, for many men, there can be a number of distressing sequalae that follow prostate cancer treatments, of both a physical and psychosocial nature.

It is not only the men who encounter post-treatment problems, but also their partners, who equally suffer sexual difficulties, psychological distress, and express dissatisfaction with their ability to communicate with their partner. These latter observations highlight the importance of focussing support services on the couple rather than merely the patient himself, both during the treatment and subsequent follow-up. However, such services remain somewhat lacking. In particular, research demonstrates unmet needs in the sexual and psychological domains, in addition to basic information provision. Therefore, this study will explore the needs of men who have undergone prostate cancer treatment and their partners as well as existing support services for this population.

Biography

Dr *S.*Afshin Shorofi has attained his PhD from Flinders University of South Australia, where he subsequently started working as a Research Associate. He is currently an Adjunct Research Fellow at Flinders University, and an Assistant Professor at Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences (Iran). Afshin is nationally well known for his publications so that he has published 17 books in the fields of Nursing, Midwifery and Medicine irrespective of his papers in peer-reviewed journals. Afshin is also serving a couple of reputed journals as an editorial board member or editorial advisory board member.