

Volume 6, No. 1 (Supplement)

June 2011

ISSN 1823-2140

The
National University
with an
INTERNATIONAL REACH



UNIVERSITI
KEBANGSAAN
MALAYSIA
National University of Malaysia

MEDICINE & Health

The Official Journal of The Faculty of Medicine UKM

7th
Malaysia Indonesia Brunei
Medical Sciences Conference
*"TOWARDS A HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATIVE
APPROACH IN HEALTHCARE"*

22nd - 24th July 2011
Equatorial Hotel, Bangi, Selangor,
MALAYSIA

officiated by
Y.B Datuk Rosnah Haji Abdul Rashid Shirlin
Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia

Organised by

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Medical Centre (UKMMC)

Faculty of Medicine
Universitas Indonesia

Universiti Brunei
Darussalam

DEVELOPMENT OF A PATIENT EDUCATION AID FOR WOMEN NEWLY DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER

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Background:

Health care education is important for all women with breast cancer and the effectiveness of information and decision aids have been widely reported in many literature. The Malaysian Breast Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines 2010 has recommended the use of educational aids and packages to provide information to women upon their diagnosis of breast cancer in all health care settings. The purpose of this study is to develop an educational information aid based on the nine (9) item information needs (Gopal et al. 2005) and test for its clarity, acceptability, feasibility and credibility. The rationale for its development is to educate women upon their diagnosis of breast cancer on breast cancer disease, breast cancer treatment and its side-effects and other related information for coping with the disease.

Materials and Methods:

The educational aid covered information about cure, sexual attractiveness, spread of disease, types of treatment, side-effects of treatment, genetic risk, social life, self care and impact of breast cancer on family members. It was evaluated by educational experts, breast cancer survivors, breast cancer patients, oncologist, psychologist and foreign experts.

Results:

Qualitative and quantitative feedback regarding attitude towards the information aid was obtained and the majority rated the information aid as being highly acceptable, clear and informative and would recommend it to be used in women upon their diagnosis of breast cancer and to be translated into other languages.

Conclusion:

This is the first such educational information aid developed for women newly diagnosed with breast cancer. A randomized controlled trial is currently being carried out to evaluate its effect on women's knowledge, treatment decision making and coping upon their diagnosis of breast cancer.

Keywords:

patient education aids, information aids, decision aids, health care education