Supportive Care Needs of Iranian Cancer Survivors and Relationships with Social Support

Safieh Faghanii, Robab Mohammadianii, Azad Rahmani3*, Ali-Reza Mohajjel-Aghdam4, Hadi Hassankhani4, Arman Azidi

Abstract

Background: Assessment of supportive care needs of cancer survivors and identifying factors affecting such needs is important for implementation of any supportive care programs. So, the aims of present study were to investigate the supportive care needs of Iranian cancer survivors and relationships with social support. Materials and Methods: In this descriptive-correlational study two hundred and fifty cancer survivors participated via convenient sampling methods. The Supportive Care Needs Survey (SCNS-SF34) and Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) were used for data collection. SPSS software was applied and univariate regression was used for examine relationships of supportive care needs with social support. Results: Participants demonstrated many unmet supportive care needs, especially in health system and information and psychological domains. In addition, participants reported that family members and significant others were their main source of support. Also, social support has a significant correlation with all domains of supportive care needs. Conclusions: There is an indispensable need for establishment of supportive care programs for Iranian cancer survivors. In addition, family members of family members of such survivors are an important resource to help develop such programs.

Keywords: Supportive care needs - social support - survivors - cancer - Iran

Introduction

Recent advancement in detection and treatment of many types of malignant tumors lead to increase in the number of long-term cancer survivors (Bray et al., 2008; Khan et al., 2008). Traditionally, the cancer survivorship divided into three seasons including acute, extended, and permanent. However, today this term is extended and includes more seasons (Miller et al., 2008). The global burden of five year survival for cancer is reported as 28.8 million people in 2008 (Bray et al., 2008) and this number continue to increase each year (Siegel et al., 2012). By the way, because of delay in diagnosis of malignant tumors, the results of some studies reported that the overall survival rate for Iranian cancer patients is relatively poor (Rezaianzadeh et al., 2009; Sadjadi et al., 2009; Rezaianzadeh et al., 2012). But, it should be noted that there is no any valid statistic about the number of cancer survivors in Iran.

The results of one systematic review showed that cancer survivors experience many problems such as physical, social, psychological, cognitive and sexual difficulties (Valdivieso et al., 2012). So, cancer survivors displayed lower levels of health and more burdens compared with general population (Yabroff et al., 2004). In wide review of related literature, there are no reports about the problems of Iranian cancer survivors. Although, some studies showed that Iranian cancer patients experience many problems including financial and job related difficulties, social problems, and many problems in daily life (Moradian et al., 2012). In addition, the results of two qualitative studies showed that the life of Iranian cancer patients is full of suffering and stress (Nasrabadi et al., 2011) and they have many problems in communication with others (Zamanzadeh et al., 2013).

In recent years the concept of supportive care needs was introduced in the field of caring of cancer patients. This concept has a board meaning and may defines general needs of cancer patients or their caregivers in physical, emotional, psychological, social, informational, and spiritual domains since their journey from diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliative care, and grief process (Fitch, 2007). Many studies showed that cancer survivors in non-western (Park and Hwang., 2012, So et al., 2013; Abdollahzadeh et al., 2014; Rahmani et al., 2014) and western (Beesley et al., 2008; Bender et al., 2012; Boyes et al., 2012) countries have many unmet supportive care needs.
Recently, one systematic review summarized all interventions designed for reduce the supportive care needs of cancer patients and interesting this review did not consider social support or seeking for social support as a strategy to reduce supportive care needs of cancer patients (Carey et al., 2012). On the other hand, other studies showed that social support is an important coping mechanism for adjustment of cancer patients (Decker, 2007; Schwarzer and Knoll., 2007). Also, some studies showed that social support has a positive relationship with family well-being (Friedman et al., 2006) and decrease the symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder in cancer patients (Carpenter, 2006; Cheng et al., 2013). In addition, social support is an important predictor return to work in cancer survivors (Taskila and Lindbohm, 2007). Similarly, the results of some qualitative studies showed that social support, especially support from family members, is an important factor in inspiring hope (Rahmani, 2012) and coping (Taleghani et al., 2006) of Iranian cancer patients. So, there is a need for studies aimed to investigate the relationship of supportive care needs of cancer survivors with social support available for these patients.

As mentioned before, in wide review of relevant literature we found no studies aimed to investigate supportive care needs of cancer survivors in Iran or other Middle Eastern countries and examined its relationship with social support. This means that there is a gap in our knowledge about the supportive care needs of cancer survivors in this region and the effects of social support on meeting supportive care needs of cancer patients. It is clear that such information is vital to planning any supportive care services for cancer survivors in Iran or other countries with similar cultural background. So, the aims of present study were to investigate the supportive care needs of Iranian cancer survivors and its relationship with social support.

Materials and Methods

This descriptive-correlational study was conducted from November in 2013 to March in 2014. Two in-patient wards and out-patient clinic of Ghazi hospital affiliated to Tabriz University of Medical Science was used as the main setting for this study. This hospital is located in Tabriz, the provincial capital of East Azerbaijan Province that located in northwest of Iran. Also, for covering patients with different characteristics the private office of one oncologist in Tabriz was selected as another setting for the study. Two hundred fifty cancer patients who receive follow up treatments during sampling period in the study settings was invited to participate in the present study. The sample size was calculated based on pilot study on 30 cancer survivors. The inclusion criteria for patient were including: having at least 18 years old; awareness of exact diagnosis of cancer; passing at least 3 month from the first round of cancer treatment; having no any signs of relapse or recurrence of the disease; having no other chronic diseases; physically and mentally ability to participate in the study. In this study the "", the transition from active treatments to careful observation was used as a criteria for survivorship (Miller et al., 2008). It should be noted that during sampling 1123 cancer patients visited and 283 of them meet the research criteria and finally the data of 250 survivors included in the study.

The instrument consists of three parts. The first part was a checklist that designed by researchers and consists of 20 items about some demographic and disease related characteristics of participants. The second part consists of Supportive Care Needs Survey (SCNS-SF34), a valid and reliable 34-item measure that investigates the supportive care needs of cancer patients in five domains including: psychological (10 items), information and health system (11 items), daily living and physical (5 items), patient care and support (5 items), and sexual (3 items) domains. Each item is based on 5-point Likert scale including: no need: not applicable; no need: satisfied; low need; moderate need; and high need that receive scores from 1 to 5 respectively. The final score for each domain was calculated based on score 100 by using following formula:

\[ \text{Final Score} = \frac{(\text{sum of all items \times (the value of the maximum response for each item - 1)})}{(the number of questions in a domain \times (the value of the maximum response for each item - 1))} \times 100 \]  

(McElduff et al., 2004). This instrument widely used for investigate the supportive care needs of cancer survivors (Nasrabadi et al., 2011; Moradian et al., 2012; Park and Hwang., 2012) and showed good internal consistency (Boyes et al., 2009; Okuyama et al., 2009; Lehmann et al., 2012). The third part consists of Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS). MSPSS is a 12-items scale that assesses the perception of social support from family, friends and a significant other. Each subscales including family, friends, and significant other is assessed with four items. Each item is based on 7-point Likert-type response format from very strongly disagree to very strongly agree that receive scores from 1 to 7 respectively. So, the final score is from 12 to 84. Score from 12 to 48 is considered low perceived support; score 49 to 68 is considered moderate perceived support; score 69 to 84 is considered high perceived support (Zimet et al., 1988). This scale showed good internal consistency in samples of cancer patients, Cronbach’s alpha from 0.82 to 0.92 (Cicero et al., 2009; Bozo et al., 2013; Han et al., 2013). Similarly, this scale showed acceptable reliability in previous studies in Iran (Naderi et al., 2009; Naseri and Taleghani., 2012).

For using in the present study, SCNS-SF34 and MSPSS questionnaires were translated into Persian via translate-back translate procedure that conducted by two independent Persian-English translators. Then, face and content validity of translated questionnaires were determined by 15 academic staff from Tabriz University of Medical Science and minor changes was made according to their comments. After that, the reliability of questionnaires was approved using Cronbach’s alpha coefficient after pilot study on 30 survivors. The coefficient for subscales of SCNS-SF34 was from 0.79 to 0.86 and for MSPSS was 0.82.

Prior to data collection, the study protocol was approved by Regional Ethics Committee at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences. After obtaining permission from the fields of research, one of researchers and two research
assistants were found out cancer patients who met inclusion criteria and invited them to participate in the study. Brief information about the aim and method of the study was given to all patients orally and their informed consent was obtained according to the guideline of local Ethics Committee. For increasing the validity of the study the data of all participants were gathered by private interview by researchers in private settings.

The statistical analysis was performed using SPSS software (version 13, SPSS, Chicago, IL). The descriptive statistic including frequency, percent, mean and standard deviation was used for describe demographic and disease characteristics of participants and their scores on SCNS-SF34 and MSPSS.

**Results**

Most of participants were female (55.2%), married (91.6%), housewife (42%), educated at under diploma level (44.8%), their income equal to living expense (52.4%), lived in cities (71.2%), lived with their spouse and children (63.6%), and diagnosed with breast cancer (40%). Also, the education of most of participants was in under diploma level (36.4%). Most important, 10 and 14 percent of participants had a symptomatic depression and anxiety respectively. The mean age of participants was 47.42 years and the time passed since awareness of exact diagnosis was 3.67 years.

Most top ten frequent meet and unmet supportive care needs of participants are reported in Table 1. As evident in this table nine of top unmet needs are related to health system and information (5 items) and psychological (4 items) domain. In addition, among met needs 3 are related to sexuality domain and 3 are related to Patient care and support domain.

The mean score of supportive care needs in 5 domain

| Table 2. The Score of Social Support and its Dimension from the Viewpoint of Cancer Survivors |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Domain                             | Mean (SD) | CI 95% |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Support from family                 | 26.10 (2.76) | 25.7-26.45       |
| Support from friends                | 17.48 (8.00) | 16.49-18.48       |
| Support from significant others     | 25.10 (3.58) | 24.66-25.55       |
| Total score of social support       | 68.70 (11.13) | 66.94-18.48       |

### Table 1. Most Frequent Unmet and Met Supportive Care Needs

| Rank | Domain                        | Items                                                                 | N (%) |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1    | Health system and information | Being informed about things you can do to help yourself to get well  | 199 (79.6) |
| 2    | Health system and information | Being informed about your test results as soon as feasible            | 192 (76.8) |
| 3    | Health system and information | Being given explanations of those tests for which you would like explanations | 187 (74.8) |
| 4    | Health system and information | Being informed about cancer which is under control or diminishing (that is, remission) | 185 (74.0) |
| 5    | Psychological                 | Concerns about the worries of those close to you                      | 180 (72.0) |
| 6    | Psychological                 | Fears about the cancer spreading                                      | 175 (70.0) |
| 7    | Psychological                 | Anxiety                                                               | 157 (62.8) |
| 8    | Psychological                 | Feelings of sadness                                                   | 156 (62.4) |
| 9    | Health system and information | Being adequately informed about the benefits and side-effects of treatments before you choose to have them | 155 (62.0) |
| 10   | Physical and daily living     | Lack of energy/tiredness                                              | 147 (58.8) |

| Rank | Domain                        | Items                                                                 | N (%) |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1    | Patient care and support      | More choice about which hospital you Attend                           | 31 (12.4) |
| 2    | Patient care and support      | More choice about which cancer specialists you see                    | 48 (19.2) |
| 3    | Health system and information | Being treated in a hospital or clinic that is as physically pleasant as possible | 56 (22.4) |
| 4    | sexuality                     | To be given information about sexual Relationships                     | 70 (28.0) |
| 5    | Psychological                 | Feelings about death and dying                                       | 75 (30.0) |
| 6    | sexuality                     | Changes in your sexual relationships                                  | 87 (34.8) |
| 7    | sexuality                     | Changes in sexual feelings                                            | 88 (35.2) |
| 8    | Health system and information | Having access to professional counseling (e.g., psychologist, social worker counselor, nurse specialist) if you, family or friends need it | 109 (43.6) |
| 9    | Patient care and support      | Reassurance by medical staff that the way you feel is normal          | 109 (43.6) |
| 10   | Physical and daily living     | Pain                                                                  | 111 (44.4) |
of questionnaire was 53.80 for health system and information domain; 46.00 for psychological domain; 40.66 for physical and daily living domain; 39.14 for patient care and support domain, 27.96 for sexuality domain. About social support, the highest scores were for support from family members and significant others and the lower score were for support from friends (Table 2).

The result of univariate regression model is reported on Table 3. As evident, social support has a significant correlation with all domains of supportive care needs.

### Discussion

The aims of present study were to investigate the supportive need cares and their relationship with social support among Iranian cancer survivors. Based on the wide review of related literature, this is the first article investigated this topic in Iran or other parts of the world.

The result showed that Iranian cancer survivors had a many unmet supportive care needs in all domains and information and health system and psychological needs were more unmet needs among Iranian cancer survivors. The results of some previous studies showed that informational needs are most popular needs among cancer survivors in South Korea (Park and Hwang., 2012), Hong Kong (So et al., 2013; So et al., 2014), and Singapore (Cheng et al., 2014). Also, some other Western studies showed psychological needs are the most unmet needs among cancer survivors in Australia (Bender et al., 2012; Boyes et al., 2012), Canada (Bender et al., 2012), United States (Knobf et al., 2012), and England (Armes et al., 2009). But, it should be noted that the amount of needs in this study is not comparable with the results of previous studies and this study confirmed that informational and psychological needs are most frequent needs for cancer survivors.

In information and health system domain, the most frequent needs of survivors were about self-care, the results of laboratory studies, and efficacy of treatments. In another Iranian study the most frequent unmet supportive care need of cancer patient was reported as informational needs (Abdollahzadeh et al., 2014). Also, another studies showed that many of Iranian cancer patients tend to receive more information about their disease, especially about side effects of treatments. On the other hand, many of these patients did not have enough information about their daises and unfortunately receive many of this information from unreliable resources such as other patients or their relatives (Valizadeh et al., 2012; Zamanzadeh et al., 2013). In addition, other Iranian study showed that education of cancer patients is weak in Iran and patients need more information about cancer treatments, and risk factors and treatments of cancer (Montazeri et al., 2002).

The second unmet needs reports by participants was psychological needs especially fears about the future of family members, fear of cancer recurrence, anxiety and fears about outcomes of treatments. Other Iranian study showed that 50% of cancer patients experience high levels of fear of cancer recurrence especially fear about family and children (Aghdam et al., 2014). Similarly, other studies showed a high prevalence of anxiety and depression (Malekian et al., 2007; Tavoli et al., 2007; Vahdaninia et al., 2010) and posttraumatic stress disorder (Rahmani et al., 2012) among Iranian cancer patients. It should be noted there is no established supportive care programs for cancer patients in Iran (Afrooz et al., 2014; Seyedrasooli et al., 2014; Nasrabadi et al., 2011).

Also, the results of this study showed that Iranian cancer survivors have less needs in sexual and patients care and support domains. This result is consistent with the results of other Asian studies regarding sexual domain but is different with these studies about patient care and support domain (Park and Hwang., 2012; So et al., 2013; Cheng et al., 2014; So et al., 2014). It seems that this result regarding sexual needs is related to taboo nature in Iran (Farnam et al., 2008) and maybe many of our participants did not report their needs in sexual domain. However, report of low levels of unmet sexual needs among participants do not necessarily means no real needs of them. This may be related to Asian culture and particularly Persian cutler that considered sexual matters as a taboo subject (Farnam et al., 2008). However, more research is needed to confirm this finding.

The results showed that Iranian cancer survivors perceive high levels of social support. These findings are consistent with studies in Western countries (Petersen., 2008; Sammarco and Konecn, 2010; Zhou et al., 2010; Forsythe et al., 2014) and South East Asian countries such as China (Cheng et al., 2013). No previous studies investigated social support in cancer survivors in Iran or other Middle Eastern countries. However, other studies in Iran (Heydari et al., 2009; Taghavi et al., 2011; Naseri and Taleghani., 2012; Nikmanesh et al., 2013) and other Middle Eastern countries, such as Turkey (Ogec et al., 2007), reported high levels of social support in cancer patients. This finding is consistent with the findings of present study. However, in these studies, cancer patients in all stages of disease, from early treatment to end of life stages, have been studied and their findings are not limited to cancer survivors.
The results of present study showed that these patients considered family members and significant others as a main source of social support and placed less importance to their friends and relatives. Similarly, in previous studies conducted on cancer survivors in Asian countries like China survivors reported that they received more support from their family members. However, in studies conducted in Western countries cancer patients considered their family members and friends as the most important sources of support available for them to the same extents (Zebrack et al., 2007; Corey et al., 2008; Forsythe et al., 2014). However, interestingly unlike these studies Survivors participating in this study reported that they receive little support from their friends. Another interesting point in this study is that the majority of patients believed that their family members are also their only important people in their lives. It seems that this is consistent with the findings of previous studies that showed that in Iranian culture, family is the main source of support for cancer patients (Faghihi et al., 2014; Abdullah-Zadeh et al., 2011).

The results of regression analysis showed that there was statistically significant relationship between social support and all aspects of supportive care needs. In this case, by increase in the score of social support the need of patients in psychological, information and health system, daily living and physical, patient care and support, and sexual domains reduced. Although according to a review of the literature there was no studies investigated the relationship between social support and supportive care needs of cancer survivors, however, other studies have been conducted on the effects of social support for cancer survivors. The results of these studies indicate the positive effect of social support. For instance, in some studies the relationship between social support and quality of life was investigated. These studies showed those who received more social support had better quality of life (Cheng et al., 2013; Huang and Hsu., 2013; Paterson et al., 2013). Also, some studies have shown that social support is moderated the psychological problems like depression and stress (Imran et al., 2009). Additionally, social support at the time of diagnosis predicted the inflammation and pain during and after treatment (Hughes et al., 2014).

The results of this study have some application in providing supportive care for cancer survivors. The results showed that Iranian cancer survivors have many unmet needs especially in health system and information and psychological domains. It confirms that there is an urgent need for establishing supportive care programs for these survivors. Such programs should cover all aspects of survivors’ supportive needs especially their informational and psychological needs. Also, the results of present study showed that Iranian cancer survivors may not represent the actual level of support received by patients. So, it is a need for other studies in other parts of Iran or other Middle Eastern countries.

**Acknowledgements**

This article is the result of a master thesis in nursing submitted to Tabriz nursing and midwifery faculty. This study was funded by the Research deputy of Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Iran. Thanks to all cancer survivors who agreed to participate in the study.

**References**

Abdullah-Zadeh F, Agahosseini S, Asvadi-Kermani I, Rahmani A (2011). Hope in Iranian cancer patients. *Iran J Nurs Midwifery Res*, 16, 288-91.

Abdollahzadeh F, Moradi N, Pakpour V, et al (2014). Un-met supportive care needs of Iranian breast cancer patients. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 15, 3933-8.

Afroz R, Rahmani A, Zamanzadeh V, et al (2014). The nature of hope among Iranian cancer patients. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 15, 9307-12.

Armes J, Crowe M, Colbourne L, et al (2009). Patients’ supportive care needs beyond the end of cancer treatment: a prospective, longitudinal survey. *J Clin Oncol*, 27, 6172-9.

Azimi S, Joukar B, Nikpour R (2009). Internet and communication: perceived social support and loneliness as antecedent variables. *Psychological Studies*, 5, 81-102.

Bender JL, Wiljer D, To MJ, et al (2012). Testicular cancer survivors’ supportive care needs and use of online support: a cross-sectional survey. *Support Care Cancer*, 20, 2737-46.

Beesley V, Eakin E, Siegingga S, et al (2008). Unmet needs of gynaecological cancer survivors: implications for developing community support services. *Psychooncol*, 17, 392-400.

Boyes AW, Girgis A, D’Este C, Zucca AC (2012). Prevalence and correlates of cancer survivors’ supportive care needs 6 months after diagnosis: a population-based cross-sectional study. *BMC cancer*, 12, 1-10.

Boyes A, Girgis A, Lecathelinais C (2009). Brief assessment of adult cancer patients’ perceived needs: development and validation of the 34-item supportive care needs survey (SCNS-SF34). *J Eval Clin Pract*, 15, 602-6.

Bozo O, Tathan E, Yilmaz T (2013). Does perceived social support buffer the negative effects of type c personality on quality of life of breast cancer patients? *Soc Indic Res*, 1, 11.

Bray F, Ren JS, Masuyer E, Ferlay J (2013). Global estimates of cancer prevalence for 27 sites in the adult population in 2008. *Int J Cancer*, 132, 1133-45.

Carey M, Lambert S, Snits R, et al (2012). The unfulfilled promise: a systematic review of interventions to reduce the unmet supportive care needs of cancer patients. *Support Care Cancer*, 20, 207-19.

Carpenter MA (2006). The stress-buffering effect of social support in gynecologic cancer survivors: *The Ohio State University*.

Cheng KK, Darshini Devi R, Wong WH, Koh C (2014). Perceived symptoms and the supportive care needs of breast cancer survivors six months to five years post-treatment period. *Eur J Oncol Nurs*, 18, 3-9.

Cheng H, Sit JW, Chan CW, et al (2013). Social support and quality of life among Chinese breast cancer survivors: Findings from a mixed methods study. *Eur J Oncol Nurs*, 17, 788-96.

Cicero V, Lo Coco G, Gullo S, Lo Verso G (2009). The role of attachment dimensions and perceived social support in predicting adjustment to cancer. *Psychooncol*, 18, 1045-52.

Corey AL, Haase JE, Azzouz F, Monahan PO (2008). Social support and symptom distress in adolescents/young adults with cancer. *J Pediatr Oncol Nurs*, 25, 275-84.
Decker CL (2007). Social support and adolescent cancer survivors: A review of the literature. *Psychooncol.*, 16, 1-11.

Faghani S, Rahmani A, Parizad N, et al (2014). Social support and its predictors among Iranian cancer survivors. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 15, 9767-71.

Farnam F, Pakgohar M, Mirmohamadali M, Mahmoodi M (2008). Effect of sexual education on sexual health in Iran. *Sex Educ.*, 8, 159-68.

Fitch MI (2007). Supportive care framework. *Can Oncol Nurs J*, 18, 6-24.

Fosythe LP, Alfano CM, Kent EE, et al (2014). Social support, self-efficacy for decision-making, and follow-up care use in long-term cancer survivors. *Psychooncol.*, 23, 788-96.

Friedman LC, Kalidas M, Elledge R, et al (2006). Optimism, self-efficacy for decision-making, and follow-up care use in long-term cancer survivors. *Psychooncol.*, 15, 595-603.

Han Y, Yuan J, Luo Z, et al (2013). Determinants of hopelessness and depression among Chinese hospitalized esophageal cancer patients and their family caregivers. *Psychooncol.*, 22, 2529-36.

Heydari S (2012). Assessing size of social network and emotional support sources and related factors among cancer patients. *Nurs Res.*, 4, 91-101.

Heydari S, Salahshourian-fard A, Rafiee F, Hoseini F (2009). Correlation of perceived social support from different supportive sources and the size of social network with quality of life in cancer patients. *JIN*, 22, 8-18.

Huang CY, Hsu MC (2013). Social support as a moderator between depressive symptoms and quality of life outcomes of breast cancer survivors. *Eur J Oncol Nurs.*, 17, 767-74.

Hughes S, Jameska LM, Alfano CM, et al (2014). Social support predicts inflammation, pain, and depressive symptoms: Longitudinal relationships among breast cancer survivors. *Psychooncology*, 42, 38-44.

Imran H, Ahmad R, Yasin G (2009). Association Between Percieved Social Support And Depression In Cancer Outpatients. *Pak J Psychol.*, 40, 45-56.

Khan NF, Ward A, Watson E, Austoker J, Rose PW (2008). Long-term survivors of adult cancers and uptake of primary health services: a systematic review. *Eur J Cancer*, 44, 195-204.

Knobf MT, Ferrucci LM, Cartmel B, et al (2012). Needs assessment of cancer survivors in Connecticut. *J CancerSurvive*, 6, 1-10.

Lehmann C, Koch U, Mehnert A (2012). Psychometric properties of the German version of the Short-Form Supportive Care Needs Survey Questionnaire (SCNS-SF34-G). *Support Care Cancer*, 20, 2415-24.

Malekian A, Alizadeh A, Ahmadzadeh G (2007). Anxiety and depression in cancer patients. *J Res Behav Sci*, 5, 115-8.

McElduff P, Bøyce A, Zucca A, Girgis A (2004). Supportive care needs survey: a guide to administration, scoring and analysis. newcastle: Centre for Health Research Psycho-oncology.

Miller K, Berry B, Miller J (2008). Seasons of survivorship revisited. *Cancer J*, 14, 369-74.

Montazeri A, Vahdani M, Haji-Mahmoodi M, Jarvandi S, Ebrahimii M (2002). Cancer patient education in Iran: a descriptive study. *Support Care Cancer*, 10, 169-73.

Moradian S, Aledavood S, Tabatabaea A (2012). Iranian cancer patients and their perspectives: a qualitative study. *Eur J Cancer Care*, 21, 377-83.

Nasiri N, Taleghani F (2012). Social support in cancer patients referring to Sayed Al-Shohada Hospital. *Iran J Nurs Midwifery Res*, 17, 279-83.

Nasrabadi AN, Bahabadi AH, Hashemi F, Valiee S, Seif H (2011). Views of Iranian patients on life with cancer: a phenomenological study. *Nurs Health Sci*, 13, 216-20.

Ogc F, Ozkan S, Baltalar B (2007). Psychosocial stressors, social support and socio-demographic variables as determinants of quality of life of Turkish breast cancer patients. *APJC P*, 8, 77-82.

Okuyama T, Akechi T, Yamashita H, et al (2009). Reliability and validity of the japanese version of the short-form supportive care needs survey questionnaire (SCNS-SF34-J). *Psychooncol.*, 18, 1003-10.

Nikmanesh, Mirabollahi Nasrin, Ali EM (2013). Prediction of posttraumatic growth base on of spirituality and social support in patients with breast cancer. *Iranian Quart J Breast Dis.*, 6, 35-42.

Park BW, Hwang SY (2012). Unmet needs of breast cancer patients relative to survival duration. *Yonsei Med J*, 53, 118-25.

Paterson C, Jones M, Rattray J, Lauder W (2013). Exploring the relationship between coping, social support and health-related quality of life for prostate cancer survivors: A review of the literature. *Eur J Oncol Nurs*.

Petersen DM (2008). Social capital, social support, and quality of life among long-term breast cancer survivors: Pro Quest.

Rahmani A. The process of inspiring hope in Iranian cancer patients. PhD Dissertation. *Tahiriz University Med Sci*.

Rahmani A, Ferguson C, Jabarzadeh F, et al (2014). Supportive care needs of Iranian cancer patients. *Indian J Palliat Care*, 20, 224-8.

Rahmani A, Mohammadian R, Ferguson C, et al (2012). Posttraumatic growth in Iranian cancer patients. *Indian J Cancer*, 49, 287-92.

Rezaianzadeh A, Mohammadeigi A, Mobaleghi J, Mohammadsaleh N (2012). Survival analysis of patients with bladder cancer, life table approach. *J Midlife Health*, 3, 88-92.

Rezaianzadeh A, Peacock J, Reidpath D, et al (2009). Survival analysis of 1148 women diagnosed with breast cancer in Southern Iran. *BMC cancer*, 9, 168.

Sadjadi A, Hislop TG, Badjik C, et al (2009). Comparison of breast cancer survival in two populations: Ardabil, Iran and british columns, Canada. *BMC cancer*, 9, 381.

Schwarzer R, Knoll N (2007). Functional roles of social support within the stress and coping process: A theoretical and empirical overview. *Int J Psychol*, 42, 243-52.

Samarco A, Konecny LM (2010). Quality of life, social support, and uncertainty among Latina and Caucasian breast cancer survivors: a comparative study. *Oncol Nurs Forum*, 37, 93-9.

Seyedrasooli A, Rahmani A, Howard F, et al (2014). Iranian cancer patient perceptions of prognosis and the relationship to hope. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 15, 6205-10.

Siegel R, DeSantis C, Virgo K, et al (2012). Cancer treatment and survivorship statistics. *CA Cancer J Clin*, 62, 220-41.

So WK, Chan CW, Choi KC, et al (2013). Perceived unmet needs and health-related quality of life of Chinese breast cancer survivors at one year after cancer treatment. *Cancer Nurs*, 36, 23-32.

So WK, Chow KM, Chan HY, et al (2014). Quality of life and most prevalent unmet needs of Chinese breast cancer survivors at one year after cancer treatment. *Eur J Oncol Nurs*, 18, 323-8.

Taghavi M, Kalafi E, Talei A, Dehbozorgi G, Taghavi SM (2011). Investigating the relation of depression and religious coping and social support in women with breast cancer. *J Isfahan Med School*, 28, 901-8.

Taleghani F, Yekta ZP, Nasrabadi AN (2006). Coping with breast cancer in newly diagnosed Iranian women. *J Adv Nurs*, 54, 265-72.

Taskila T, Lindbohm ML (2007). Factors affecting cancer survivors' employment and work ability. *Acta Oncol*, 46, 446-51.
Tavoli A, Mohagheghi MA, Montazeri A, et al (2007). Anxiety and depression in patients with gastrointestinal cancer: does knowledge of cancer diagnosis matter? BMC Gastroenterol, 7, 28.

Vahdaninia M, Omidvari S, Montazeri A (2010). What do predict anxiety and depression in breast cancer patients? A follow-up study. Soc Psych Psychiat Epidemio, 45, 355-61.

Valdivieso M, Kujawa AM, Jones T, Baker LH (2012). Cancer survivors in the United States: a review of the literature and a call to action. Int J Med Sci, 9, 163-73.

Valizadeh L, Zamanzadeh V, Rahmani A, et al (2012). Cancer disclosure: experiences of Iranian cancer patients. Nurs Health Sci, 14, 250-6.

Yabroff KR, Lawrence WF, Clauser S, Davis WW, Brown ML (2004). Burden of illness in cancer survivors: findings from a population-based national sample. J Natl Cancer Inst, 96, 1322-30.

Zamanzadeh V, Rahmani A, Valizadeh L, et al (2013). The taboo of cancer: the experiences of cancer disclosure by Iranian patients, their family members and physicians. Psychooncol, 22, 396-402.

Zebrack BJ, Mills J, Weitzman TS (2007). Health and supportive care needs of young adult cancer patients and survivors. J Cancer Surviv, 1, 137-45.

Zimet GD, Dahlem NW, Zimet SG, Farley GK (1988). The multidimensional scale of perceived social support. J Pers Assess, 52, 30-41.

Zhou ES, Penedo FJ, Bustillo NE, et al (2010). Longitudinal effects of social support and adaptive coping on the emotional well-being of survivors of localized prostate cancer. J Support Oncol, 8, 196-201.