

Title

Investigation of factors affecting early Quality of life of patients after breast cancer surgery

Authors

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Abstract

Objective: The purpose of this study was to investigate factors related to early Quality of life (QOL) three months after surgery in breast cancer patients with axillary lymph node dissection.

Methods: The subjects of this study were 195 consecutive patients who underwent axillary lymph node dissection for breast cancer. Age, body mass index, level of lymph node dissection, marriage, children, co-resident household members, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, postoperative chemotherapy, postoperative hormonal therapy, postoperative radiotherapy, upper limb function (disabilities of the arm, shoulder, and hand; DASH), and QOL (European Organization for the Treatment and Research of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire; EORTC QLQ-C30) were evaluated. For each item of EORTC QLQ-C30, compared with preoperative status and three months after surgery, those who improved or remained unchanged in the three months after surgery were classified as the maintenance and improved groups, and those with worsening status were classified as the worsened group.

Results: Age, level of lymph node dissection, DASH, neoadjuvant chemotherapy, postoperative chemotherapy, and postoperative radiotherapy were significantly associated with QOL ($P<0.05$).

Conclusions: The early QOL of postoperative patients with breast cancer is affected by multiple factors such as upper limb function and postoperative chemotherapy, and thus comprehensive intervention is required.