

WHAT ARE THE PATIENTS WITH THYROID CANCER SURGERY CONCERNED ABOUT?

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Background/Purpose: To prevent getting wrong information and improve quality of life, it is necessary to provide accurate information and education to thyroid cancer patients. The aim of this study was to get education needs for patients and develop proper educational program for thyroid cancer patient.

Methods: Between April and June 2012, 159 patients who had discharge plan after thyroid cancer surgery were surveyed by questionnaire. This questionnaire consisted of 5 areas including management of the symptom and the complication after surgery, postoperative wound and dietary management, daily life, medication management, and treatment plan after discharge.

Results: Male/female ratio was 34:125. The age groups were 35.2% for younger than 39, 29.6% for 40s, and 35.2% for older than 50. Patients of 61.6% had college education and 81% were married. The patients with family history of thyroid cancer were 18.9%. Internet is the main information source (54.7%) to patients, but most of patients wanted to get the information from doctors (76.1%) and nurses (21.4%). General educational needs of patients scored a mean of 3.17 out of 4 points. Specifically the need for 'management of the symptom and the complication after surgery' was the highest (3.33), followed by 'treatment plan after discharge'(3.31).

Discussion & Conclusion: Patients are always hungry for information about their disease. The majority of patients acquire information about thyroid cancer through the internet, whereas the targets they want to get education frequently were medical team including doctors and nurses. Medical team should be the center to activate small group education.