



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Follow up on the Pre-Operative group Counselling (POC) service to newly diagnosed breast cancer patient after decanting of Breast Centre (BC) to a smaller clinical area

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Introduction

A POC service to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients was developed since 2001 to provide disease knowledge and psychological support. After these years, POC service is still running today despite the Breast Centre has decanted to a smaller clinical area since April 2015. In this study, we needed to review if the POC service still effectiveness and worthy to continue.

Objectives

- 1.To evaluate the effectiveness and patients' satisfaction of POC program
- 2.To evaluate the observation from volunteers.

Methodology

- 2 questionnaires were given to patients and volunteers to fill in after the session.
- 1.A patient self-completed questionnaire (same questionnaire as Chun et al2014) to rate if the talk is useful.
 - 2.Volunteers observation to the patients.

Result

From May 2015 to April 2016, 140 patients had attended the POC session. The 1st questionnaire results indicated that the majority of patients were satisfied to the program. 100% patients indicated that they were able to understand the disease and facilitate their treatment decision after the POC session. The result of 2nd questionnaire indicated the emotion of the majority of patients were observed and well controlled. There were 8.57% patients were identified by the volunteers needed further emotional support from BCNs.

Discussion and conclusion:

Being diagnosis with breast cancer is very stressful. Patients are vulnerable and always experience high level of psychological distress. POC program as a channel of providing information, to let patients express their thinking and emotion is appraised.

Though the program was held in a confined area, the result reflected the quality service which was helpful to patients, despite the unfavourable crowded environment, still demonstrated effectiveness. Patients claimed BCNs and breast cancer survivors could provide both physical and psychological support. The study also supported that POC program in the clinical setting with BCN onsite could support both patients and volunteers with sense of security.