

Abstract

The Role of Transgenerational Transmission in the Psychological Adjustment of Women with Breast Cancer

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Introduction: Getting sick with cancer is a traumatic event for the affected person and can result with various psychological difficulties, which is further deepened by invasive methods of treatment. The previously experienced psychological trauma of a close person can influence the response of a person who is currently experiencing trauma, because the far-reaching power of posttraumatic consequences extends through a natural biological barrier far into the next generation (the so called "transgenerational impact of traumatization").

Objective: To assess the impact of transgenerational transmission on the development of PTSD in women with breast cancer.

Methods: The sample consisted of 120 women treated at the Oncology Department of the University Hospital Center Osijek, included in liaison psychiatric treatment. A detailed clinical examination with a psychiatric interview was used with the application of DSM-IV diagnostic criteria, a specially structured non-standardized questionnaire for the assessment of etiological factors and the Los Angeles Symptom Checklist of PTSD symptoms (LASC) for determining PTSD.

Results: No statistical significance was obtained between the presence of a family member with cancer and the average total score on the LASC in women with newly diagnosed breast cancer.

Conclusion: Although there was no correlation between the existence of a family member suffering from cancer and the development of PTSD in the test subjects, during psychotherapy procedures we observed the existence of symptoms that did not meet the criteria for establishing a diagnosis of PTSD, but could interfere with the development of various psychological responses. By including cancer patients in psychotherapy procedures, we can prevent the development of more severe psychological responses in the second generation, which due to the genetic influence in the inheritance of the disease will develop cancer, and the psychological disorder associated with it, and achieve a far reaching effect on strengthening adaptation mechanisms.

Keywords: transgenerational transmission, trauma, psycho-oncology

Sažetak

Utjecaj transgeneracijskog prijenosa u psihičkoj prilagodbi žena s karcinomom dojke

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Uvod: Obolijevanje od karcinoma predstavlja traumatski događaj za oboljelu osobu i može rezultirati cijelim nizom psihičkih poteškoća, a invazivni načini liječenja dodatno ih produbljuju. Ranije proživljena psihička trauma bliske osobe može utjecati na odgovor osobe koja u sadašnjosti proživljava traumu jer se dalekosežna moć poslijetraumatskih posljedica proteže i kroz prirodnu biološku prepreku daleko u sljedeći naraštaj (tzv. pojam "transgeneracijskog utjecaja traumatizacije").

Cilj: Procijeniti utjecaj transgeneracijskog prijenosa na razvoj PTSP-a kod žena oboljelih od karcinoma dojke koje su u obitelji imale člana oboljelog od karcinoma.

Metode: Uzorak se sastojao od 120 žena liječenih na Odjelu za onkologiju KBC Osijek uključenih u liaison psihijatrijsko liječenje. Korišten je detaljan klinički pregled s psihijatrijskim intervjuom uz primjenu DSM-IV dijagnostičkih kriterija, posebno strukturirani nestandardizirani upitnik za procjenu etioloških čimbenika i LASC za utvrđivanje PTSP-a.

Rezultati: Nije dobivena statistička bitnost o povezanosti postojanja člana obitelji oboljelog od karcinoma i prosječne ukupne vrijednosti na LASC-u.

Zaključak: Iako nije dobivena povezanost postojanja člana obitelji oboljelog od karcinoma i razvoja PTSP-a kod ispitanica, tijekom psihoterapijskih postupaka je uočeno postojanje simptoma koji ne zadovoljavaju kriterije za postavljanje dijagnoze PTSP-a, ali mogu interferirati s razvojem raznih psihičkih odgovora, poremećaja ili samo jačine anksioznosti i depresivnosti. Uključivanjem oboljelih od karcinoma u psihoterapijske postupke, možemo prevenirati razvoj težih psihičkih odgovora kod drugog naraštaja, koji će zbog genetskog utjecaja u nasljeđivanju bolesti tek razviti karcinom i uz njega vezan psihički poremećaj te dalekosežno djelovati na jačanje mehanizama prilagodbe.

Ključne riječi: transgeneracijski prijenos, trauma, psiho-onkologija