

Emotional Reactions of Gynecological Cancer and Pelvic Exenteration

Abstract

The objective of this study was to analyze emotional reactions, sexuality and marital relation in woman with gynecological cancer submitted to the pelvic exenteration surgery by a theoretical review and presentation of clinical cases. The literature points some emotional reactions common in these patients like anxiety, fear of death, insecurity about self-image and low self-esteem related with the use of the collection bags (colostomies). Regarding sexuality, there are found low levels of sexual satisfaction and excitement, such as dissatisfaction with the frequency of intercourse and fear of abandonment or rejection of her sexual partner, who for times moves away from the relation. A better understanding of these aspects will facilitate the work of professionals connected to these patients and will make possible more appropriate interventions by health team.

Keywords: Gynecological cancer; emotional reactions; pelvic exenteration; sexuality.