

Dear Editor,

Thank you for carefully reviewing our manuscript previously titled “Self-perceived Burden and influencing factors in patients with cervical cancer administered radiotherapy ” for possible publication in the World Journal of Clinical Cases. We are grateful to you and your reviewers for their constructive critique. We have revised the manuscript, highlighting our revisions in yellow and have attached point-by-point responses detailing how we have revised the manuscript in response to the reviewers' comments below.

Thank you for your consideration and further review of our manuscript. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or recommendations.

Yours Sincerely,

Huiying Qin

Response to the reviewer #1:

1.I thought the intro was long. Please cut out the general information about cervical cancer.

Response: I had modified the introduce according to your suggestion and sorted out the references. As follow:

Cervical cancer is the fourth commonest malignancy in women around the world ^[1]. Individuals with cervical cancer tend to be younger than previously reported^[2,3]. External beam radiation and brachytherapy, is often applied for cervical cancer treatment ^[4]. After diagnosis with cervical cancer, the women have short-term and long-term psychophysical and sexual problems; for example, undergoing brachytherapy could be perceived as a negative, humiliating experience resulting in pain, fear, fatigue, financial issues, among others ^[5,6].

The psychological pressure of long-term treatment, care and financial and emotional problems generally results in the negative experience of self-perceived burden (SPB), as demonstrated in other cancers, including breast cancer and hematologic malignancies ^[7,8]. Currently, studies assessing SPB in cervical cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy are scarce, and the effects of radiotherapy on mental and physical health in such individuals are not completely understood.

Therefore, the present study aimed to assess self-perceived burden and related

influencing factors in cervical cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy. Our findings provide a reference for reducing SPB in these patients.

2. I found this data interesting, but it would be better to discuss its usefulness in countries other than China.

Response: Studies conducted in many countries revealed salient SPB among cancer patients. However, studies assessing SPB in cervical cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy are scarce. A Japan study found that nurses should not only support patients' efforts to tackle the situation by themselves, but also help the family as a whole to tackle problems together. By facilitating meaningful dialogue between family members, patients' feelings of SPB can be alleviated ^[1]. Other parameters independently determining SPB included the monthly family income and payment method. The above results showed that the poorer the family, the higher the SPB, consistent with multiple studies ^[2]. Other countries studies also found that Cancer patients' high SPB was precipitated by suffering from severe symptom distress and heavy functional ^[3,4].

References

- 1 Oeki, M. and M. Takase, Coping Strategies for Self-perceived Burden Among Advanced Cancer Patients. *Cancer Nurs*, 2020. 43(6): p. E349-E355.
- 2 Ting, C.Y., et al., Self - perceived burden and its associations with health - related quality of life among urologic cancer patients. *European journal of cancer care*, 2020. 29(4): p. e13248-n/a.
- 3 Tang, S.T., et al., Impact of high self-perceived burden to others with preferences for end-of-life care and its determinants for terminally ill cancer patients: a prospective cohort study. *Psychooncology*, 2017. 26(1): p. 102-108.
- 4 Libert, Y., et al., Factors associated with self-perceived burden to the primary caregiver in older patients with hematologic malignancies: an exploratory study. *Psychooncology*, 2017. 26(1): p. 118-124.

Response to science editor:

1.The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

Response: I had provided the original figure documents in the 62923-Table File.

2.PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout.

Response: I had revised the reference in the manuscript.

3.The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text.

Response: I had added the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text. As follow:

Article Highlights**Research background**

Cervical cancer is the fourth commonest malignancy in women around the world. Individuals with cervical cancer tend to be younger than previously reported. The psychological pressure of long-term treatment, care and financial and emotional problems generally results in the negative experience of self-perceived burden (SPB), Studies by domestic and foreign scholars have shown that self-perceived burden is closely related to the quality of life, including a good death, dignity, etc.

Research motivation

Studies conducted in many countries revealed salient SPB among cancer patients .However, studies assessing SPB in cervical cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy are scarce.

Research objectives

The study aimed to assess self-perceived burden and related influencing factors in

cervical cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy.

Research methods

One-hundred and ten patients with cervical cancer undergoing radiotherapy were selected for questionnaire survey. Research data of these patients were summarized and analyzed.

Research results

Total self-perceived burden scores were 43.13 ± 16.65 . Self-perceived burden was associated with the place of residence, monthly family income, payment method, transfer status, the presence of radiotherapy complications, and the presence of pain ($P < 0.05$). The self-perceived burden and self-care self-efficacy were negatively correlated ($P < 0.01$). In multivariate analysis, self-care self-efficacy, place of residence, monthly family income, payment method, degree of radiation dermatitis and radiation proctitis were influencing factors of self-perceived burden ($P < 0.05$).

Research conclusions

Patients with cervical cancer undergoing radiotherapy often have SPB. Self-care self-efficacy scale, place of residence, monthly family income, payment method, and radiation dermatitis and proctitis are factors independently influencing SPB.

Research perspectives

In clinic, the medical staff should pay attention to improving the patients' self-care self-efficacy, focus on rural and low-income patients, and provide effective symptom management to cervical cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy, which could reduce SPB and improve prognosis and the quality of life.