Finding novel ways to increase cancer awareness and provide support to those with cancer.

**Purpose/Objectives:** To describe the use of an art exhibit, created in response to breast cancer survivor stories, and additional supplementary activities to increase cancer awareness and provide support to those with cancer.

**Data Sources:** Published articles and books, personal experiences.

**Data Synthesis:** Art has been used to educate and promote the expression of emotions. Using an art exhibit as the central feature, a planning committee composed of staff members and volunteers developed a repertoire of activities to improve cancer awareness and provide support to cancer survivors. Visitor and staff reactions to the event were profound.

**Conclusions:** Art can capture the most intimate and personal aspects of the cancer experience. This event was a novel and effective way to increase awareness about the cancer experience. The event brought together patients, family members, friends, staff members, and the community and facilitated new partnerships to help people with cancer.

**Implications for Nursing:** Nurses are well equipped to direct the therapeutic use of art and support the potential reactions of viewers. Nurses can promote the benefit of art exhibits for cancer education, support, and awareness and use their knowledge and skills in planning and implementing supplementary activities.

**Key Points...**

- Art can elicit profound emotional and intellectual reactions.
- The process of creating art has been used therapeutically to help patients with cancer express their thoughts and feelings, and poster art has been used to convey health messages to the public.
- Hosting an art exhibit and organizing supplementary supportive and educational activities are unique and powerful, albeit intensive, cancer awareness activities.
- Merging science and art can lay the groundwork for a variety of cancer educational opportunities.

**Literature Review**

The Therapeutic Effect of Creating Art

The use of art as therapy has evolved from a relatively reactionary, arbitrary means of expression to an intentional and planned therapeutic endeavor. As a therapeutic intervention, for example, art has become increasingly popular in healthcare...