A diagnosis of ovarian cancer is characterized by specific factors that alter the meaning of quality of life and cancer survivorship.

Nurses must be aware of the unique survivorship issues that women with ovarian cancer face, in addition to general survivorship concerns.

meaning has been described as an effort to understand events, why they have happened, and their impact on an individual’s life. Patients with cancer struggle with questions of “Why me?” including perspectives on what caused cancer to occur and what the purpose for the experience could be (Coward, 1997).

Spirituality has been described as an aspect of quality of life (QOL) for patients with cancer that encompasses not only religiosity but other dimensions such as hopefulness, transcendence, and purpose (Burton, 1998; Ferrell, 1996). Spirituality is linked to life meaning, and previous literature has described the importance of spirituality as a component of deriving meaning from cancer. Finding meaning in cancer through spirituality and other aspects of life helps patients and their families to cope and maintain a sense of hopefulness (Taylor, 1998).

The process of deriving meaning in illness also has been described as assisting individuals with recognizing positive outcomes from negative experiences, such as seeing the positive changes in life that may result from a cancer diagnosis (Ferrans, 1994; Ferrell, Taylor, Sattler, Fowler, & Cheyney, 1993). A goal of oncology nursing is to promote patients’ search for meaning as a means of restoring integrity to lives and a sense of equilibrium despite the disruption of life-threatening illness (O’Connor, 1998). This article reports on research...