Supportive Care Needs of Chinese Women With Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Prior to Adjuvant Chemotherapy

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Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among Chinese women (Sung et al., 2021). In 2020, about 416,371 Chinese women were newly diagnosed, with the crude incidence rate reaching 59 cases per 100,000 individuals as indicated by the GLOBOCAN 2020 online database (Ferlay et al., 2020), which is expected to further increase in China (Wen et al., 2018). Few newly diagnosed women have sufficient information about the disease or its treatment (Jiang et al., 2016), and they often experience anxiety about treatments and fear of recurrence (Stephens et al., 2008). Adjuvant chemotherapy after surgery can effectively reduce breast cancer recurrence rates, but patients who received adjuvant chemotherapy following surgery have previously reported a variety of unmet supportive care needs, including psychological, informational, physical, daily living, and sexual needs (Cai et al., 2017; Xiao et al., 2016). In addition, compared to those who received chemotherapy alone, patients had more supportive care needs before the initial chemotherapy treatment after surgery (Pérez-Fortis et al., 2018). Although the impacts of chemotherapy on patients’ quality of life are significant, their supportive care needs are often underestimated in routine care (Akechi et al., 2011; Nakaguchi et al., 2013).

Supportive care needs refer to the help required by patients with cancer and their families beyond medical, surgical, or radiation therapy interventions, such as their physical, social, emotional, informational, psychological, spiritual, and practical needs (Fitch, 2008). Numerous studies have found that supportive care is an essential service for helping individuals with cancer manage treatment-related symptoms and cope with psychological problems (Lai et al., 2019; Sussman et al., 2018). Many countries have extended this service to prechemotherapy, which was shown to effectively increase patients’...