Factors Predicting Time before Treatment of Colorectal Cancer Patients

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Abstract:

Purpose: To investigate time before treatment of colorectal cancer patients and the predictive power of age, knowledge of colorectal cancer and fear of abnormal symptoms in predicting time before treatment of colorectal cancer patients

Design: Secondary analysis with predictive design.

Methods: The sample consisted of 80 colorectal cancer patients at every stage of the disease who sought the treatment at the outpatient and inpatient clinics of the surgical-medical department, at a government hospital in Bangkok. Data were collected by interview with questionnaires of demographic data, health history, time before treatment, knowledge of colorectal cancer, and fear of abnormal symptoms. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression analysis were used in data analysis.

Main findings: The median time before treatment of colorectal cancer patients was 60 days. Fear can decrease the delay time before treatment 0.4 times in colorectal cancer patients at the level of significance .05

Conclusion and recommendations: Nurses should be aware that general cancer information may not enough to raise attention in patients with colorectal cancer. The progress of cancer warning signs to be a major threat for their health should be emphasized. Perceived fear or threat of the warning signs could bring the patients to visit the doctor sooner. Research should be done to explore other factors influencing time before treatment in colorectal cancer patients.

Keywords: colorectal cancer, fear, patient delay, time before treatment

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