

SOCIAL SUPPORT AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING IN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY

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THESIS ABSTRACT

This study was planned as a descriptive and cross-sectional study to evaluate the social support perceived from family and the level of spiritual well-being in breast cancer patients receiving chemotherapy, and the relationship between these two variables. The study was conducted with 120 breast cancer patients treated at the Outpatient Chemotherapy Unit of Bursa Ali Osman Sönmez Oncology Hospital between November 15, 2024 and June 1, 2025.

The findings of the study indicate that the patients' levels of perceived social support and spiritual well-being are high. Social support and spiritual well-being scores were found to be independent of the patients' sociodemographic and disease characteristics. A positive, moderate, and statistically significant relationship was found between social support and spiritual well-being. In conclusion, as patients' perceived social support increases, their level of spiritual well-being also increases.

APPLICATION AREAS OF THE THESIS RESULTS

Patients' levels of social support should be regularly screened in oncology wards. Nurses should adopt a holistic approach to their patients, incorporating into their care plans not only physical symptoms but also spiritual dimensions such as "Meaning" and "Peace" as measured by the FACIT-Sp scale.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1.Deniz, L., Pehlivan, S. 'The relationship between fear of breast cancer and breast cancer prevention behaviors: Systematic review of nursing graduate theses', 9th Uludag Breast Cancer Symposium, Bursa 27-29 June 2024 (Oral presentation)

