Andy Tan, Mihaela Moldovan-Johnson, Stacy Gray, Katrina Armstrong, Robert Hornik

Information seeking from interpersonal and media sources improves adherence to breast cancer surveillance after curative treatment: Results from a longitudinal study

Abstract:

Adherence to postoperative breast cancer surveillance is low among women with a known history of breast cancer. This study investigates whether breast cancer survivors’ active seeking of cancer related information from various medical and nonmedical sources influences their subsequent adherence to guideline-based breast cancer surveillance. We included those who were eligible for surveillance and who participated in both the baseline and one-year follow-up surveys. The outcome was self-reported adherence to physical examination, mammography, and breast self-examinations according to recommended guidelines at one-year follow-up. Controlling for potential confounders, higher levels of seeking about treatment, quality of life, and cancer-related information from nonmedical sources (i.e., lay interpersonal and media sources) at baseline predicted increased odds of breast cancer patients' reporting adherence to recommended surveillance one year later (OR=1.49, 95% CI = 1.02 to 2.17, p=.038). This has important implications for informing efforts to encourage higher levels of breast cancer surveillance among survivors.