Fanget mellem ungeliv og familien

- en identificering af unges oplevelser og behov under moderens brystkræftforløb

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WHEN MOM HAS BREAST CANCER

- A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IDENTIFYING ADOLESCENTS' NEEDS DURING THEIR MOTHER'S COURSE OF BREAST CANCER



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BACKGROUND

It can have severe consequences for adolescents to live with a severely somatic ill parent. Though breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis among Danish women, little research has been done on how the mother's illness impacts adolescents' life and how to support them best.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study was to examine:

- the needs for information, involvement and support among adolescents living with a mother with breast cancer
- how the adolescents can be involved and supported during this period.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions were developed for the study:

- What are the needs of adolescents during their mother's course of breast cancer?
- How can adolescents be involved and supported from the beginning of their mother's course of breast cancer?

METHODS

Eight adolescents (aged 12-18) were individually interviewed about their experiences during their mother's illness, and one group with seven adolescents (aged 14-18) was interviewed about their participation in an experience-exchange group. All interviews were recorded, transcribed and analyzed with an inductive phenomenological approach. Through thematic analysis common themse were identified

The experiences of the adolescents:

"In the beginning, I didn't really know how to react because I had never imagined to find myself in this situation" (boy, 15 years old) The needs of the adolescents:

"I believe it's better to ask questions to a doctor rather than to start researching online. You never know if the information on the internet is true. It's better to get the answers from a doctor!" (boy, 16 years old)

"I wanted to join the group, so that I could get some friends who are experiencing the same things that I am. So you don't feel that you are completely alone in the world and you're the only one experiencing this" (girl, 14 years old)

> "We do talk a lot about it all at home, but the emotional aspects – that's more here in the group I talk about that" (girl, 18 years old)

RESULTS

The adolescents expressed interest in information about breast cancer and treatment as well as involvement at the hospital. However, they were reluctant to ask for it and had difficulties expressing their own needs. Participating in the group made adolescents feel relieved and less alone. Especially sychosocially challenged adolescents benefited from participating. The healthcare professionals had a central function in reducing adolescents' experiences of insecurity.

CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVE

The results of this study suggest that adolescents have unmet needs during their mother's course of breast cancer. To help adolescent adjust to their mother's illness, initiatives that help clarify their questions about the illness and treatment as well as offering them the possibility to share their experiences with other adolescents could be a way forward.

"At first when I was told about it, I completely broke down, but then I thought: "it's not me who should cry, it's my mom - she's the one who should be crying', so I didn't really feel that I could show her how sad I actually was. At that time I didn't think that I would be going through a lot as well. I just thought: "Right now, I need to acre about my mathernot myself!"" (girl, 18 years old)

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Formålene med projektet er at:

- 1. Identificere unges oplevelser og behov under moderens brystkræftforløb
- 2. Udvikle et støttetilbud til unge pårørende og afprøve det på 1-2 Brystkirurgiske Afsnit
- 3. Præsentere anbefalinger til landets hospitaler om, hvordan unge pårørende kan støttes gennem deres mødres brystkræftforløb.

Figure 1. Study design

Phase 1: Exploratory work (the adolescents' experiences) 1b: Interviews with approximately 10 1a: Systematic review of adolescents' experiences during their mother's course of adolescents (individual, semi-structured) at the breast cancer and evaluations of existing and following 3 times during their mothers' prior interventions treatment: 1-2 weeks after the mother receives the breast cancer diagnosis 6 weeks after the mother's first chemotherapy 6 months after the mother's last chemotherapy 1c: 2 interactive workshops with 5 adolescents participating in each Phase 2: Intervention (how to meet the adolescents' needs) 2a: Development of an intervention and testing it in 2 hospitals 2b: Assessment of the feasibility of the intervention using interviews with 10 participating adolescents and the health care professionals responsible for the interventions 2c: Revisions to the intervention 2d: Presentation of recommendations for an intervention for adolescents living with mothers with breast cancer



TID 1

(Mor har lige fået diagnosen)

Tre temaer TID 1

Fra hemmeligholdelse til chok

Ofrer socialt liv for mors overlevelse

Forsøg på at berolige standser kommunikationen



Fra hemmeligholdelse til chok

Ofrer socialt liv for mors overlevelse

Forsøg på at berolige standser kommunikationen

TID 2

(Sygdommen er blevet hverdag)

Tre temaer TID 2

"Det går fint"

Mere konkret gør det mindre skræmmende ... og mere virkeligt

Svært at snakke om – men rart her

"Det går fint"



Mere konkret gør det mindre skræmmende ... og mere virkeligt

Svært at snakke om – men rart her



Opsamlende

De unge:

- → Vil gerne involveres og informeres om deres mors forløb men er tilbageholdende med at spørge og dele bekymringer med deres forældre
- → Stopper med at dele tanker og følelser, hvis de mødes med 'tænk ikke på det' men stopper ikke med at tænke på det
- → Går ofte alene med tanker om mors sygdomsforløb og fremtiden
- → Opsøger ikke selv støtte fra venner, lærere eller støttetilbud
- → Oplever lettelse ved at få sat ord på (og et lyttende øre til) deres oplevelser



Har du en patient med teenagebørn, der kunne have lyst til at være med?

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