

INTRODUCTION

The word cancer is viewed as being synonymous with death, pain, and disfigurement. However, attitudes toward cancer don't fit today's status of the treatment and control of cancer. Cancer is a synonymous with certain terms such as malignant neoplasm, tumor, malignancy, carcinoma, and aberrant cell growth. Cancer is a collective term describing a large group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. In addition to cancer is a chronic disease because of the serious consequences and the persistent nature of some of cancer's late effect's (**Lewis & Dirksen, 2007**).

Breasts are often seen as symbols of sexuality, femininity, and motherhood. The breast serves as a vital purpose in the reproduction of female 2nd second role in gender identification. So that this form of cancer has an interconnected psychological and physiological influence on the well-being of the women. So breast cancer is the one of the most feared disease among women over the last few decades, moreover breast cancer has become a major concerns for women of all ages. All women are at risk for barest cancer and some women have others factors that increase their like hood of breast cancer more than the others (**Daniels, Nosek & Leslie, 2007**).

Quality of life has been defined as contentment with every day's life. The degree of enjoyment and satisfaction in experiences every day's life. As opposed to financial or material well-being. Many other definitions are available, but each centers on them of satisfaction with every day's life as a whole (**Marquis, 2009**).

Quality of life is defined as extent to which person's life experience is satisfying. Quality of life has become increasingly important in person with chronic illness as a result of improved technology and treatment that prolongs life. Chronic illness is a disabling condition that can have a profound effect on person's ability to function in everyday activities, which in turn affects one's QoL (**Shukla et al, 2008**)

Both the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer may impact negatively on sexual function in women. These are likely to vary according to age, menopausal status and relationship factors as well as the nature of surgical and endocrine treatments. Sexual dysfunction is common in women with atrophic vaginitis and may also relate to changes in body image, libido and self-esteem after breast cancer (**Cella & Fallowfield, 2008**).

The goal of management of breast cancer is to prevent complications such as lymph edema, and metastasis of breast cancer to any organ. Treatment is based on many factors, including type and stage of the cancer, whether the cancer is sensitive to certain hormones, and whether or not the cancer overproduces. In general, cancer treatments may include surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and hormonal therapy (**Ignatavicius & Workman, 2010**).

Oncology nurses are engaged in a collaborative practice with all members of the care team to provide optimal management of patients with cancer. Nurse practitioners have an important role in primary and secondary prevention of cancer through assessing and contributing to early detection of cancer. Their professional practice requires detailed knowledge of the biologic and psychosocial dimensions of the cancer

problem. They have key roles not only as caregivers but in patient and family education and clinical cancer research. Cancer nurses also are continuously involved in the enhancement of nursing practice through research, continuing and advanced education. Nurse also acts as social supports, care-giver, educator, counselor, helper, and co-coordinator **(Wood & Ross- Kerr, 2011)**.

Globally breast cancer kills one women every 75 seconds, affect men as well as women, more than 1 million women are diagnosed every year .It cause 14%of cancer death in women, with more than 410,000 death annually world wide .Beside it has become a major health problem affect as many as one in eight women during life time **(Eder, 2008)**.

Breast cancer is a major public health problem worldwide, and it is the most common malignancy in the American women. About 1 in 8 women in the United States (12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2010, an estimated 207,090 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 54,010 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. About 1,970 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diagnosed in men in 2010. Less than 1% of all new breast cancer cases occur in men **(Zeneca, 2010)**.

Significance of the Study:

In Egypt, breast cancer is the most common cause of cancer death among women worldwide. It is a second lead of cause after lung cancer. IN Arab World ,it is approved that is constitutes breast cancer is the most common cancer in women accounting for 35% of all cases of female cancer .Almost half of patients were before 50years and median age (49-

52) years . Advanced disease remain very common in Egypt ,Tunisia,Suadi Arabia ,Syria ,Palestinian others .The incidence of breast cancer increase in developing countries due to increase life expectancy ,increase urbanization and adoption of western life styles **(WHO, 2010)**.

The lifetime risk of breast cancer has increase from 5.5 %(1every 18 women) to 13 %(1 every 8 women) in the past 40 years .This increasing incidence affects predominantly women younger than 55years of age. Possible reasons for this trend are that women are living longer into cancer prone year, statistical reporting is better ,better screening methods are available .In addition ,changes in dietary and socioeconomic habits, and increasing exposure to carcinogens ,may contribute to the higher incidence of breast cancer**(Elater, 2011)**.

In Egypt, it's difficult to get precise breast statistics due to lack of accurate national reporting system. The last statistics provide information about breast cancer in 2010, statistical records of breast cancer revealed that 686 cases of breast cancer were admitted to Mansoura Oncology Institute, 682 cases of them are female and there were represented 99.4 % , 4 cases of them are men and there were represented 0.006% **(Mansoura University Hospital Records, 2010)**.

So, this study was conducted to assess the effect of breast cancer on women's Quality of life.