

ABSTRACT

PERCEPTIONS OF LIFE EVENTS IN WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH OVARIAN CANCER

The purpose of this study was to explore the perception of stress in the lives of a group of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their perception of the effect of stress on the development and progression of the disease. A purposive sample of 26 women was obtained from two local oncology practices. Participants completed a structured questionnaire as well as an investigator developed personal interview. The study found that although most of the participants felt stress plays an important role in health and disease, many were not ready to make the leap to associate stress with the risk of developing cancer. Understanding these perceptions may be used to encourage healthy lifestyle changes and help frame disease management in ways that foster greater personal control in the disease process.

Susan McBride
May 2006