

Developing and Testing the Scale of Information Needs for Caregivers with Cancer Children

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Abstract

This study presents a novel instrument for measuring the information needs of family caregivers of children with cancer. The study was conducted in two phases: instrument development; and, validity and reliability testing. The instrument, Scale of Information Needs for Caregivers with Cancer Children (SINCCC), was developed with 42 questions for 5 dimensions of information needs including knowledge about disease and treatment (17-question), knowledge about physical care (12-question), information related to psychosocial support (6-question), futurity and development of children (3-question), and resources related to health and social welfare (5-question). The psychometrics properties of SINCCC were then examined. A convenience sample consisting of 210 caregivers were recruited from three medical centers located in northern and southern Taiwan. The Cronbach's α of SINCCC was 0.97, split-half reliability was 0.86, and the Intraclass Correlation Coefficient for test-retest reliability was 0.93. Factor analysis was used to evaluate the structure validity of SINCCC. Forty-one questions were divided into the following five factors: knowledge of pathphysiology and treatments (10-question); knowledge of physical care (12- question); information related to psychosocial support (5-question); knowledge of home care and follow-up (6-question); and, information related to health and social welfare resources (8-question). Five factors accounted for 61.01% of the total variance. The criterion-related validity were significant ($r = 0.42$; $p < 0.01$), and its convergent validity and divergent validity were acceptable. The discriminate for the information needs in different treatment stage were significant ($F_{(3, 206)} = 7.70$; $p < 0.01$). The SINCCC can be used as a tool to assess the information needs of caregivers of children with cancer.

Key words: Child with cancer, caregiver, information needs, instrument

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