

## **ABSTRACT**

### **SOCIAL ISSUES AMONG PATIENTS AT THE HOPE INSTITUTE AND AMBULATORY PATIENTS AT KINGSTON PUBLIC HOSPITAL ONCOLOGY CLINIC**

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Cancer of the cervix uteri is a global public health problem. It is the most common cancer in women in developing countries and the second most common in women worldwide.

An analytical survey was carried out on patients with invasive cervical cancer at the Hope Institute and the ambulatory patients at the Kingston Public Hospital oncology clinic. Accidental sampling was the method used to select 86 patients from whom data were collected. The docketts of the patients were checked to verify the diagnosis of invasive cancer of the cervix.

A questionnaire containing 35 items with sub-items was specifically designed for this survey. The purpose of the study was to assess the need for social support systems for patients with cancer of the cervix at the institutions of Kingston Public Hospital and the Hope Institute. The survey showed that the family was the main support system. The church/church group was identified by the respondents as a support group.

The majority (85%) of the respondents expressed interest in meeting with and having the support of others with the same condition. This was one of the key findings of the study.

In relation to social support systems for patients with cancer of the cervix in Jamaica, areas of concern were identified and strategies for improvement were recommended.