



Predictors of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use in Cancer Care: Results of a Nationwide Multicenter Survey in Korea

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Track 2

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Background

- Although studies have shown that the use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is common in cancer patients, few surveys have assessed the status of CAM use and factors associated with a variety of cancers in Korea.▷

Objectives

- We explored the factors predicting CAM use among nationally representative cancer patients.▷

Study patients and procedure▷

- Data were collected from cancer patients treated at the National Cancer Center and nine regional cancer centers in Korea during a period ranging from July to August 2008.
- A total of 2,661 cancer patients completed an interview.
- Overall, 25.5% of patients reported that they used or were using CAM.

Table 1. Predictors of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use

Variables	analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Basic model (n=2515)				
Age (year)				
18-39	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
40-59	1.18	0.83-1.66	1.36	0.93-1.99
60-69	0.77	0.54-1.11	1.18	0.78-1.80
70-	0.63	0.42-0.93	1.21	0.71-1.77
Gender				
Male	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
Female	1.42	1.19-1.69	1.17	0.93-1.48
Education				
≤Middle school	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
High school	1.56	1.28-1.90	1.31	1.05-1.65
≥College	1.56	1.22-1.99	1.26	0.94-1.70
Monthly household income				
<1 million won	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
1-3 million won	1.50	1.20-1.86	1.34	1.05-1.72
≥3 million won	1.87	1.48-2.37	1.57	1.18-2.10
Cancer type				
Stomach	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
Lung	1.10	0.79-1.54	1.20	0.84-1.72
Liver	1.33	0.94-1.90	1.25	0.86-1.83
Colon/rectum	0.81	0.57-1.15	0.77	0.53-1.11
Breast	2.20	1.63-2.97	1.79	1.24-2.56
Cervix	1.33	0.83-2.12	1.05	0.63-1.77
Others	1.09	0.83-1.43	1.05	0.78-1.41
Metastasis				
No	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
Yes	1.55	1.27-1.89	1.55	1.26-1.91
Time since diagnosis				
≤12 months	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
12-36 month	1.33	1.07-1.64	1.32	1.05-1.65
	1.73	1.33-2.26	1.79	1.35-2.38
>60 month	1.75	1.35-2.29	1.76	1.33-2.34
Extended model* (n=2515)				
Trust in doctor				
Very	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
Somewhat	1.32	1.01-1.73	1.26	0.94-1.67
Not at all	2.42	1.22-4.79	2.38	1.13-5.00
Trust in hospital				
Very	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
Somewhat	1.30	1.05-1.63	1.18	0.93-1.49
Not at all	2.19	1.27-3.76	2.04	1.15-3.63
Satisfaction with conventional medical service				
Very	1.00	reference	1.00	reference
Somewhat	1.21	1.99-1.78	1.14	0.92-1.41
Not at all	1.77	1.25-2.52	1.61	1.11-2.34

*Extended models are for individual current attitudes or status, controlling for the variables in the basic model.

Variables	users /	%	Multivariate analysis*	
	No.of patients		OR	95% CI
Needed information about the current status of my illness and its future courses				
No	143/751	19.0	1.00	reference
Yes	535/1910	28.0	1.61	1.29-2.02
Needed information about tests and treatments				
No	152/814	18.7	1.00	reference
Yes	526/1847	28.5	1.68	1.35-2.09
Needed information about symptoms requiring a hospital visit				
No	187/897	20.9	1.00	reference
Yes	491/1764	27.8	1.44	1.17-1.78
current medication				
No	240/1103	21.8	1.00	reference
Yes	437/1556	28.1	1.33	1.10-1.62
			eg. exercise)	
	191/936	20.4	1.00	reference
Yes	487/1725	28.2	1.49	1.21-1.83
Needed information about correct diet (food to eat, food to avoid)				
No	173/894	19.4	1.00	reference
Yes	504/1765	28.6	1.63	1.32-2.02
Needed information about cancer treating hospitals or clinics and physicians				
No	243/1196	20.3	1.00	reference
Yes	435/1465	29.7	1.51	1.25-1.84
Needed information about governmental financial support for medical expenses				
No	137/708	19.4	1.00	reference
Yes	541/1951	27.7	1.56	1.25-1.96
Needed information about hospice services				
No	476/1925	24.7	1.00	reference
Yes	192/715	26.9	1.04	0.84-1.29

basic model (gender, age, monthly income, cancer type, metastasis, and time since diagnosis).

- The use of CAM in patients with cancer can be attempts to explore all possible options.

No matter which it is, physicians need to openly discuss the use of CAM with their patients and identify if there are other unmet supportive needs with them.