

## Sexual Quality of Life in Women with Gynecological Cancer

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**Abstract :** The aim of this study is to investigate sexual quality of life in women with gynecological cancer. This cross-sectional study was conducted on 37 women with gynecological cancer and 39 control women (in menopausal term) at the Gynecooncology and Menopause Clinics of Trakya University Medical Faculty between January and July 2015. Women who had sexual active and willing to participate in the study filled an information form inquiring socio-demographic characteristics and Sexual Quality of Life Questionnaire-Female (SQLQ-F). Data were analyzed by Mann-Whitney-U test and Kruskal-Wallis test. The average age of the women was  $52.7 \pm 7.6$  ( $51.2 \pm 8.7$  in women with gynecological cancer,  $54.3 \pm 6.0$  in controls). The SQOL-F scores in women with gynecologic cancer ( $60.8 \pm 22.4$ ) was lower than controls ( $63.5 \pm 20.7$ ), however, there was no statistically significant difference ( $p = 0.759$ ). Women with gynecological cancer who had vaginal dryness and pain during sexual intercourse ( $45.7 \pm 21.3$ ) were lower SQOL-F total score than control group ( $66.0 \pm 21.7$ ) ( $p = 0.014$ ). The SQOL-F scores in women who took chemotherapy treatment ( $55.7 \pm 17.8$ ) were lower than in women who had not chemotherapy treatment ( $86.8 \pm 16.6$ ) ( $p = 0.005$ ). In conclusion, taking chemotherapy treatment and occurring vaginal dryness and pain complaints during sexual intercourse in women with gynecological cancer reduces sexual quality of life. Therefore, sexual quality of life in women with gynecological cancer should be evaluated, and they should be supported in order to improve their sexual quality of life.

**Keywords :** gynecological cancer, quality of life, sexuality, women

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