Integrative Review on the Effectiveness of Internet-Based Interactive Programs for Women With Breast Cancer Undergoing Treatment

Jiemin Zhu, MSc, RN, Lyn Ebert, PhD, RN, and Sally Wai-Chi Chan, PhD, RN, FAAN

Zhu is an associate professor in the Department of Nursing and School of Medicine at Xiamen University in Fujian, China, and a doctoral student in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Newcastle in Australia; and Ebert is the Deputy Head of School, and Chan is a professor, dean of nursing, and school head, both in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Health and Medicine at the University of Newcastle in Australia.

This study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (71503219).

Zhu and Chan completed the data collection and provided the statistical support and analysis. All of the authors contributed to the conceptualization and design and the manuscript preparation.

Zhu can be reached at jiemin.zhu@uon.edu.au, with copy to editor at ONFEditor@ons.org.

Submitted February 2016. Accepted for publication June 9, 2016.

Keywords: breast cancer; Internet-based interactive program; self-efficacy; psychological well-being; symptom distress; quality of life

ONF, 44(2), E42–E54.

doi: 10.1188/17.ONF.E42-E54

W
omen with breast cancer who are undergoing active treatment, including surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy, may suffer from a number of symptoms that often interfere with their lives (Cheng, Wong, Ling, Chan, & Thompson, 2009; Dodd, Cho, Cooper, & Miaskowski, 2010). Symptom management is crucial for women with breast cancer, and the reduction of symptom distress is a critical indicator of successful psychosocial support (Ruland et al., 2013). Self-efficacy is a crucial concept in symptom management because it determines how women think, feel, self-motivate, and perform (Bandura, 1977). Social support also plays an important role in how women with breast cancer deal with their diagnoses and treatments (Lou, Yates, McCarthy, & Wang, 2013; Smith et al., 2011). Patients’ symptom distress, self-efficacy, and social support are three interrelated components that influence a person’s ability to cope with chronic disease (Hunt et al., 2012; Lou et al., 2013). In addition, women with breast cancer undergoing treatment are reported to experience poor quality of life (QOL) and psychological well-being (So et al., 2010; Tsitsis & Lavdaniti, 2014). Therefore, healthcare