

## **Abstract**

**Background** Psychiatric morbidities, particularly depression and anxiety, have been shown in the literature to be common in cervical cancer survivors (CCSs). Given their negative impact on quality of life, psychiatric morbidities in CCSs should be identified and treated early. However, little is known about the prevalence and the associated factors of psychiatric disorders in CCSs.

**Objectives** To identify the prevalence and the associated factors of psychiatric disorders, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) in screening for current psychiatric disorders in Chinese CCSs.

**Methods** This cross-sectional study consecutively recruited 113 cervical cancer patients who had completed treatment in a local gynecology clinic over a year from May 2011 to April 2012. All subjects completed the self-rating questionnaires including the Chinese Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) and the Chinese version of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality-of-Life Questionnaire

(EORTC QLQ-C30). Sociodemographic and clinical data were collected. Psychiatric diagnoses were made by the author according to the Chinese-bilingual Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders, Patient research version (CB-SCID-I/P).

**Results** The point prevalence of psychiatric disorders as a group was 37.2%. The point prevalence of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and schizophrenia were 31.0%, 15.9% and 1.8% respectively. The lifetime prevalence of psychiatric disorders as a group was 42.5%. The lifetime prevalence of depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and schizophrenia was 36.3%, 18.6%, 1.8% respectively. Major depressive disorder was the most common mood disorder and generalised anxiety disorder was the most common anxiety disorder. Younger age, past history of psychiatric illness, fatigue, menopausal symptoms and pain were independent predictors for current psychiatric disorders. HADS full-scale at cutoff score of 8/9 helped to detect active psychiatric morbidity in Chinese CCS with 92.9% sensitivity and 91.5% specificity.

**Conclusion** Psychiatric disorders, predominantly depressive and anxiety disorders, are common in Chinese CCSs. Identification of the independent predictors can help gynecologists detect these disorders earlier and arrange appropriate intervention. HADS is a reliable instrument for screening current psychiatric disorders in these patients.