

Supplementary File

Table S1. The sociodemographic description of the group in the study

GROUP n = 121			
Sex	Female	n = 95	79.30%
	Male	n = 26	20.70%
Age	Mean		51.77±11.40
Education	Primary	n = 1	0.9%
	Vocational	n = 25	20.7%
	Secondary	n = 57	47.2%
	Tertiary	n = 38	32.2%
Residence	Rural	n = 38	31.4%
	Urban	n = 83	68.6%
Occupation	Not employed	n = 19	15.8%
	Pensioner	n = 28	23.1%
	Disability pension	n = 13	10.7%
	Different forms of occupation	n = 61	50.4%
Marital status	Not in a relation	n = 14	12%
	Married	n = 91	75%
	In an informal relation	n = 16	13%

Table S2. Criteria for inclusion or exclusion from the participation in the study

INCLUSION CRITERIA	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CRITERION
Type of cancer	Breast and colorectal cancer
Advancement of the disease	Cancer at an earlier stage of development
Type of treatment	In the course of neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy (radical treatment)
Age	18 to 85years of age
Consent to participate in the study	Conscious consent to participate in the study
Mental disorders	No diagnosed mental disorders
EXCLUSION CRITERIA	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CRITERION
Type of cancer	Other cancers apart from the breast or colorectal cancer
Advancement of the disease	Cancer at an advanced stage of development
Type of treatment	In the course of a paliative chemotherapy
Consent to participate in the study	No consent given to participate in the study
Mental disorders	Diagnosed mental disorder

Table S3. Existence of an experience of a chronic, serious disease in oneself or in a close family member before contracting cancer vis a vis perception of one's illness, the coping strategy adopted, acceptance of the situation and the mental state of the patient

Experience of a previous serious disease Average rank					Inter- group. compari son	H Kruskala- Wallisa (df = 3)	p	ε ²
	Group I N=27	Group II N=10	Group III N=75	Group IV N=9				
Perception of the disease:								
Duration of the disease	66.63	56.80	59.89	58.06		0.99	0.81	–
Consequences of the disease	64.44	69.25	57.71	68.89		1.95	0.58	–
Freq. of the occur. of sympt.	69.22	49.35	59.45	62.22		2.80	0.42	–
Self-control	59.78	50.15	63.25	58.00		1.38	0.71	–
Monitoring of treatment	59.33	59.65	61.91	59.89		0.14	0.99	–
Feeling of cohesion	56.06	45.05	62.59	80.33		5.53	0.14	–
Emotional representation	59.96	70.90	60.43	57.89		0.92	0.82	–
The essence of the disease:								
No of sympt.since contraction	53.41	56.05	61.75	83.06		5.11	0.16	–
No of symp. related to it	52.17	53.35	63.53	74.89		4.03	0.26	–
Causes of the disease:								
Psychological explanation	57.80	81.05	58.87	66.06		3.98	0.26	–
Action of risk factors	58.83	63.25	61.92	57.33		0.30	0.96	–
Strategies of coping:								
Fear absorption	69.43	79.43	55.29	62.67		6.40	0.09	–
Fighting spirit	68.70	51.05	60.63	52.06		2.73	0.45	–
Hopelessness-Helplessness	66.17	80.20	55.59	69.22		5.92	0.12	–
Positive reevaluation	68.54	58.20	58.07	65.94		2.04	0.57	–
Acceptance of the disease								
	56.20	59.25	63.70	54.83		1.26	0.74	–
Mental state:								
Fear	57.06	87.95	58.07	67.33		7.12	0.07	–
Depression	60.63	71.85	60.34	55.56		1.22	0.75	–
Irritation/aggression	48.50	78.50	64.44	50.78	I < II	7.72	0.05*	0.06

$p < 0,05$; Legend: group I — patients with no previous experience, group II — patients with experience of previous own disease, group III — patients with experience of the disease in a close family member, group IV — persons with experience of their own disease and a disease in a close family member

Table S4. Type of cancer and patients without previous experience of their own serious, chronic disease or a disease in a close family member and the perception of the contracted disease, coping strategies, acceptance of the disease and their mental state

	Average rank			
	Breast cancer	Colorectal cancer	<i>U</i>	<i>p</i>
Perception of the disease:				
Duration of the disease	11.23	15.91	57.50	0.13
Consequences of the disease	12.18	15.25	68	0.34
Freq. of the occur. of sympt.	12.14	15.28	67.50	0.32
Self-control	13.27	14.50	80	0.72
Monitoring of treatment	14.36	13.75	84	0.87
Feeling of cohesion	13.18	14.56	79	79
Emotional representation	14.27	13.81	85	0.90
The essence of the disease:				
No of sympt.since contraction	10.41	16.47	48.50	0.05*
No of symp. related to it	10.77	16.22	52.50	0.08
Causes of the disease:				
Psychological explanation	12.91	14.75	76	0.58
Action of risk factors	12.36	15.13	70	0.39
Strategies of coping:				
Fear absorption	15	13.31	77	0.61
Fighting spirit	13.50	14.34	82.50	0.79
Hopelessness-Helplessness	11.55	15.69	61	0.20
Positive revaluation	11.09	16	56	0.12
Acceptance of the disease	17.55	11.56	49	0.06
Mental state:				
Fear	13.27	14.50	80	0.72
Depression	12.36	15.13	70	0.39
Irritation/aggression	14.50	13.66	82.50	0.79

**p* < 0.05

Table S5. Type of cancer and patients with previous experience of their own serious, chronic disease or a disease in a close family member and the perception of the contracted disease, coping strategies, acceptance of the disease and their mental state

	Average rank			
	Breast cancer	Colorectal cancer	<i>U</i>	<i>p</i>
Perception of the disease:				
Duration of the disease	44.85	51.97	876	0.22
Consequences of the disease	46.33	49.47	963.50	0.59
Freq. of the occur. of sympt.	45.69	50.54	926	0.40
Self-control	48.10	46.49	997	0.78
Monitoring of treatment	49.99	43.30	885	0.25
Feeling of cohesion	55.84	33.44	540.50	< 0.001*
Emotional representation	50.69	42.11	844	0.14
The essence of the disease:				
No of sympt.since contraction	46.89	48.53	996.50	0.78
No of symp. related to it	47.03	48.30	1004.50	0.83
Causes of the disease:				
Psychological explanation	48	46.66	1003	0.82
Action of risk factors	41.72	57.24	691.50	0.01*
Strategies of coping:				
Fear absorption	45.72	50.50	927.50	0.41
Fighting spirit	45.33	51.16	904	0.31
Hopelessness-Helplessness	45.25	51.29	900	0.30
Positive reevaluation	45.10	51.54	891	0.27
Acceptance of the disease	47.96	46.73	1005.50	0.83
Mental state:				
Fear	46.75	48.77	988	0.73
Depression	45.80	50.37	932	0.43
Irritation/aggression	50.19	42.97	874	0.20

**p* < 0.05