Cancer survivors are easily exposed to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). This study was designed to assess the use of dietary supplement pattern among Korean cancer survivors compared to those without cancer history, and to identify associated factors for use of dietary supplement. In this cross-sectional analysis, data were obtained from the fifth Korean National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey (2013-2015). We analyzed 18,034 participants amongst which 576 were cancer survivors. The use of dietary supplement was assessed by a short question: “Did you take dietary supplement more than 2 weeks during the previous year?” After adjusting sex, young cancer survivors (< 65 years) tend to have a higher rate of using dietary supplement (56.0%) than same age general population (43.7%, P=0.008). For older non-cancer survivors (≥65 years) and cancer survivors the rates were 48.6% and 45.8%, respectively (P=0.410). After adjusting age and sex, the rate of use of dietary supplement was 44.0% in non-cancer survivors, 16.1% in hepatic cancer patients, 42.3% in colorectal cancer patients, 48.3% in cervical cancer patients, 51.7% in stomach cancer patients, 63.3% in thyroid cancer patients, and 64.2% in breast cancer patients, respectively. The rate of use of dietary supplement was significantly higher in thyroid and breast cancer patients than non-cancer subjects (all P<0.005). For particular cancer survivor groups, more tend to use dietary supplement than non-cancer subjects. Supplements can effect on short- and long-term treatment of cancer, so assessment of dietary supplement intake is needed for cancer survivors.

References


Biography

Ji Hyun Moon is currently working as an Assistant Professor in Department of Family Medicine at Jeju National University Hospital. She has published so many articles related to health care in various journals.

tropiajh@gmail.com