

The Experiences about Hair of Cancer Experienced Men and Women:
Using the narrative Data of DIPEX-Japan

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This paper analyzes the narrative talking about “hair”, using the interview data of the men and women who experienced breast cancer, prostate cancer. As a result of analysis, the change of hair (almost the loss of hair because of chemotherapy) influenced self-evaluation, the evaluation from others by the different body to the norm basically. And they thought hairlessness revealed their status as a “cancer patient”. The extracted category is gender, the recognizing anew of cancer, sense of estrangement, a sense of difference, confession about cancer, neighboring’s perplexity. Not only the hair loss by chemotherapy but also the loss of the body hair by the hormonal therapy was related to gender identity. They were going to regulate the appearance with their wigs and hats. The adjustment may succeed, or may not succeed. In addition, there was the category to regard hair loss and hair growth as the discharge of cancer and reproduction of the life.