

Maori Living with Cancer

Impacts on Body Image & Sexuality

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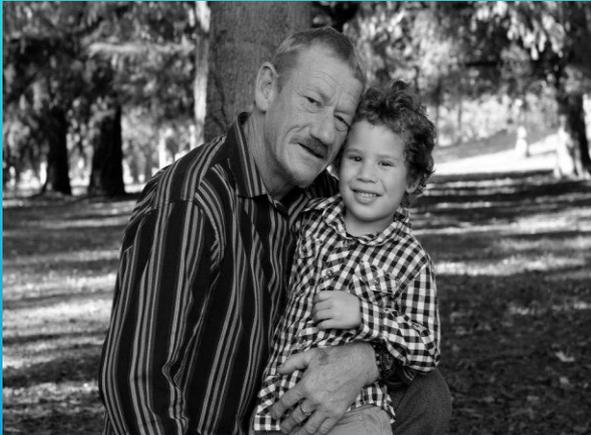
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Ko wai au?



Heretaunga

PRE-EUROPEAN MAORI SEXUALITY:

- Historically, Maori society was known for its **acceptance** of sexuality and sexual diversity.
- Aspects of sexuality represented in traditional **whakairo**, often depicted male and female sexual organs.
- Traditional **waiata, karakia, whakatauki, and myths** were explicit about sexuality.

BODY IMAGE:

- **Pre-colonisation:** differences were not a big thing!
- **Colonisation:** differences have an impact on self-body image.

Body Image and Cancer:

- **Treatment side effects** i.e. loss of hair, overall image when feeling unwell.
- **Removal** of body parts... to be or not to be?
- **Privacy** of me and my body.

SEXUALITY:

- **Pre-colonisation:** normal for a Chief to have more than wife.

Sexuality and Cancer:

- Impacts on **libido, and intimacy with significant other.**
- **Insecurities** around removal of body parts, will he/she still love me the way I am?
- **Whakapapa**, the ability to procreate.

IMPACTS OF CANCER ON BODY IMAGE AND SEXUALITY:

- Both men and women dealing with cancer treatments may experience...

Side Effects pertaining to their sexuality..

When changes and challenges either psychological and/or physical in relation to their sexuality or that of their partner who is had / having treatment. For me.....

- **RANGATAHI**
- **PAKEKE**
- **KAUMATUA**

**Can I have sex? Should I be having sex?*

**Whakama...I'm embarrassed of the new me.*

** I want a Nurse who is the same gender as me, that makes me less whakama and I would feel safer.*

EXAMPLES: CASE STUDIES

- **Case 1: Wahine Toa (21yrs)**

Hard enough for adolescents / young people dealing with their own 'normal' sexuality but if that 'young person' also has to deal with cancer.....

- **Case 2: Tane Toa (56yrs)**

Our tane must retain his mana at all times...

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

- **Not all 'Maori' are the same!!!**
- **Important to understand history and changes overtime for Maori.**
- **Incorporate this knowledge and understanding into your practice and interactions with Maori e.g. Same-sex nursing staff.**

RETURN OF BODY TISSUES:

- Cultural, religious or individual beliefs.
- Remembering not all 'Maori' are the same!!! If patient is Maori, don't be shy to ask the question relating to the return of their tissue or body part, some will and some won't.
- What is most important is that you offer and provide them with information and choices.

Any PATAI (questions)?

No reira,

Ko Theona Ireton ahau,

Nga mihi aroha,

*Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena
tatou katoa.*