Meaning in Illness

Eight laminated cards that contained the titles of

the meaning categories in a large typeface (Table 1) were laid

out on a table in front of the women in random order by the

research nurse. The women were asked to read through a brief

description of each category and to select the one that was closest

to the way they currently felt about their breast cancer.

After each woman had made her selection, the research nurse

asked her to talk about why she had made that selection. The

woman’s statements were recorded in writing by the research

nurse and subsequently transcribed.

Challenge

Value

Enemy

Irreparable Loss

Weakness

Strategy

Punishment

Relief