

TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2001

*Patient care – are we responding to patients needs effectively?***Teaching Lecture**

1405

Nursing diagnosis in oncology care

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During the last decades nursing diagnosis are one of the most discussed issues in the discipline of nursing. The framework and direction of their use depends on the expected outcomes of diagnostic reasoning. The debate on nursing diagnoses started on aspects of the object domain, language and formalization of the discipline or on aspects of e.g. economically triggered challenges in health care systems and their implications for the nursing profession. There still is a need to describe a structured model of the process of formulating genuine diagnostic statements in nursing that refer to individual patients life circumstances and their need for nursing care.

During this teaching lecture examples of specific patient phenomena in oncology care will be described and situations with an analysis guided by a structured model will be reflected. The core elements and the methods of the model are well known. They range from NANDA-Diagnoses and elements of Orem's self-care deficit nursing theory based on the nursing process. The diagnostic statement focuses individuals health related life situations and the resources, capabilities and limitations to cope the situation with or without professional nursing care.

Proffered Papers**Patients' needs, concerns and taboos**

1406

Identifying the concerns of women undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer

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Purpose: Chemotherapy is known to be associated with high levels of physical and psychological morbidity, yet the extent to which Nurses are aware of patients' concerns has not been explored. A study was conducted to investigate the concerns of inpatients receiving Chemotherapy, to assess whether ward Nurses could identify patients' concerns, and to determine the prevalence of anxiety and depression.

Method: 33 patients with breast, ovarian, cervical or uterine cancer undergoing Chemotherapy were interviewed using a Concerns Checklist. The HADS was used to assess anxiety and depression. Ward Nurses were asked to list what they perceived to be the patients' concerns.

Results: Patients expressed an average of 10.3 concerns (range 2-27). 50% of these concerns were about issues such as current illness, the future, inability to do things, physical symptoms and treatment. Nurses substantially underestimated concerns, perceiving patients to have an average of 1.85 concerns (range 0-8). In 70% of patients, Nurses were unable to identify any of the patients 3 main concerns. There was also disparity regarding the nature of worry. Nurses believed patients were concerned about physical symptoms and treatment related worries, with scant reference to concerns about the future or psychosocial issues. 24% of patients had potential caseness of anxiety and/or depression.

Conclusion: Although women undergoing inpatient Chemotherapy have many concerns, ward Nurses failed to identify 80% of these. This results in patients having unmet needs, possibly predisposing them to the later development of anxiety or depression. The Concerns Checklist has shown to be a useful tool in identifying concerns, and could be developed to help

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Nurses assess patients' individual needs, thus enhancing the potential for better patient care.

1407

A pilot health promotion programme on testicular cancer for boys

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Purpose: Testicular Cancer (TC), the most common cancer in young males, is readily treatable - 97% cure if treated early. Therefore early detection and treatment are crucial. Evidence suggests ignorance of TC results in delay in presentation. Previous attempts at taking Health Promotion to young men have accessed only a small proportion. A schools programme for 14 year old boys was devised to educate, promote discussion and encourage Resticular Self Examination (TSE).

Method: A programme was devised by the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Uro-oncology, a Health Promotion worker and the school head. A pilot was run in one school to assess appropriateness of delivery, its effectiveness and impact on the boys. A session on TC was delivered to all 14 year old boys in one school. A written questionnaire was completed the following week by all the boys to assess their response and whether the aims were achieved. Class teachers provided feedback.

Results: All respondents (56) enjoyed the session; most (52) found it useful. Much interest had been generated throughout the school and many had discussed with friends/family. They had retained factual information about TC. 34 had examined themselves. Teachers reported much discussion among the students and very positive feedback.

Conclusion: The responses to the questionnaire demonstrated that the aims of the programme had been achieved; feedback from teachers concluded that such a sensitive topic had been handled in a sensitive, yet humorous way. the programme has been extended to all schools in the city whose Heads have been contacted to ensure that all boys have the opportunity to take part.