tant Clinic and reviewed regularly by Nurse who provides a more holistic consultation. Overall better use of resources.

Conclusion: With the introduction and development of the role of the Specialist Nurse in Urology/Oncology, these patients within this Trust now receive a radically different, more patient-centred and significantly improved quality of care.

1412 ORAL

Evaluation of quality of care for early diagnosed prostate cancer patients treated with brachytherapy and external beam

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Purpose: Improve the quality of care in patients with prostate cancer without symptom of disease in a short admittance period.

Background: A substantional number of patients with prostate cancer (T1-2N0) is treated with brachytherapy followed by external beam. Patients are diagnosed by screening study and are still without disclosure any disease. A few weeks before admission patient history is interviewed by a nurse. During the brachytherapy treatment the patient is admitted for only two days on the ward, a short period of time for the nurse to play an active role to inform and counsel the patient. Because of the characteristics of this patient group (short admission and no complains) we are trying to find an effective way to care for these patients, from a nurse perspective.

Methods: Literature was studied and a questionnaire was developed. The questionnaire included satisfaction items like information received and nursing care/counseling and the need for after-care.

Results: Twenty-five patients were questioned by telephone after their admission. Patients treated for prostate cancer T1-2N0 who do not manifest any sign of disease need specific nursing care.

Conclusion: The analysis of data gives a clear view of patient's information needs. The conditions and possibilities for after-care telephone call, as a method for nurses to evaluate their quality of care will be presented.

1413 ORAL

The knowledge of young men about testicular cancer and their attitudes toward it

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Purpose: Testicular cancer is a rare but serious disease. In the last decades, the incidence of testicular cancer is increasing. In 1993, 59 new cases of testicular cancer were diagnosed in Slovenia, and in 1997, 77 cases. The disease most often affects young men between the ages of 20 to 35, when they are in their reproductive phase of life. That is why this disease and its treatment has such an impact on their emotional, financial and psychosocial aspect of life. Primary goals of this research were to find out how much young men know about testicular cancer, what are their attitudes toward testicular cancer, to what extend they know and perform testicular self-examination, and how much they are motivated to increase the knowledge about this subject.

Methods: Forty-two young men, who served the army, participated in the research. Research data were collected by questionnaires of 30 questions. Questions were arranged in six thematic groups: demographic data, previous experience with cancer, knowledge about testicular cancer, attitudes toward testicular cancer, acquaintance with and performing of testicular self-examination, and motivation. After returning the questionnaire, every participant received a leaflet with information about testicular cancer and testicular self-examination that was published by Slovenian Oncology Nurses Section. The attitudes were measured with the help of the five category Likart scale.

Results: The filled in questionnairs were returned by 98% of participants. The age of the respondents ranged from 20 to 27 years with mean age of 22. The education of the respondents was as follows: 7% finished primary school, 69% secondary school, 17% college and 7% had university degree. None of them ever had cancer, and 83% of them knew someone who had cancer. The results showed insufficient knowledge of participants about testicular cancer; 46% of respondents had positive attitude toward testicular cancer issues, 31% had neutral attitudes, 68% of participants have already heard about testicular self-examination and 29% of them also performed it. Ninety percent of respondents were very motivated to expand knowledge about testicular cancer and 93% about testicular self-examination. The main source of information about testicular cancer and self-examination were the media, rather than the health professionals who played only a marginal role.

Conclusion: The results of this research are similar to the results of other studies. The findings indicate that the majority of respondents were uninformed or misinformed about this subject. This calls for the designing of educational programs for health professionals and of health education programs for young people that should be performed within the regular preventive health care check-ups, in secondary schools, in colleges, and in the army. This could increase awareness of the testicular cancer risk and might improve the cure rate in patients with testicular cancer.

Interactive Symposium

1414

Participation in clinical trials: patient experiences

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This presentation seeks to outline part of a programme of research which concentrates on examining patients and their families experience of cancer clinical trial participation. Clinical trials in cancer raise unique ethical and practical problems. Phase I and II trials involve drugs with an unknown potential to bring about benefit, or indeed harm. Phase III trials raise issues around randomisation and treatment being determined by chance. At the same time there is a social and practical need to continue to recruit people into these trials in order that new treatments can be evaluated. If society and science wish to carry out clinical trials in populations of cancer patients then it is essential that the processes involved are acceptable to patients and based on the ethical principle of respect for persons. This demands that the patients' perspective be incorporated into the management of clinical trials.

This discussion presents two key studies which form part of a programme of work which seeks to examine the patients perspective with regard to cancer clinical trial participation. The first is a longitudinal qualitative study of trial participants experiences and the second is an intervention study which builds on the earlier work and takes the evidence derived from consumer experiences to shape and develop cancer services. Key findings and issues which have arisen from this work will be highlighted and discussed.

1415

The challenge of informing patients

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The aim of this presentation is to point out the challenge of informing patients and to discuss which problems nurses face when performing this task. Informing cancer patients is one of the daily tasks of a nurse working in the oncological field. The need for more information has increased in the past years. Patients and their relatives make use of additional information