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Assess the knowledge on side effects of chemotherapy among caregivers of cancer patients

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Abstract

Chemotherapy is a type of treatment used in cancer patients. There are lots of side effects caused by the chemotherapy. The Nurses plays an important role in teaching and educating patients and their relatives. Home remedies can be prevent the side effects of chemotherapy. Problem Statement “An exploratory study to assess the knowledge on side effects of chemotherapy among care givers of cancer patients in selected hospitals of Pune city.”

Materials and methods: A quantitative research Approach was used for the study with the one group pre-test design. The study was conducted in selected hospital from Pune City Non- Probability convenient sampling technique was used for 100 sample. The tool Developed which includes Section-1. The demographic variables. Section 2-20 structured Questionnaire consist of knowledge on side effects of chemotherapy among care givers in hospitals. Tool Validity was done and tool found reliable and feasible study after pilot study.

Result: Majority (66%) of care givers have average knowledge, (22%) care givers have Good Knowledge and (12%) have poor knowledge regarding the side- effects of chemotherapy.

Keywords: Knowledge, side effects, chemotherapy, caregivers, cancer patients

Introduction

Lung cancer is the most threatening cancer, in developing countries. After the lung cancer stomach cancer is the second dominant cancer. An in women the most common type of cancer is breast cancer and in older people the most common type of cancer are rectum and colon cancer.

There are 4 main goals for treatment of cancer namely surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and biology therapy and it has its own merits and demerits of cancer patients. The care providers should figure out the physiological and psychological features of nausea, vomiting, fatigue, etc. and their treatment to be educate to the relative's client and caregivers.

As many chemotherapy is given at home, it's important that caregivers and client learn the risks and hazards that household representatives may be disclosed. Chemotherapy can be provided by an infusion pump/ pill form.

When care providers care for the cancer patients who is taking treatment in home or outpatient clinics. They should be careful about the client's body fluids and contact with the chemotherapy patients. And people are more convenient for taking chemotherapy in outpatient clinic then that of receiving treatment in a hospital. Still precaution is required to be taken for making everyone safe at home

Need for study

It is essential that the clients relatives and care providers to teach them about the procedure and the proper use of supportive care medications at household. An essential to teach them equally how to treat the adverse effects of chemotherapy like hair loss, nausea, vomiting, headache etc. So the health care professionals need to check and undertake important teaching program to enhance the knowledge so as to control the side effects of chemotherapy. Family members have important role in manage the side effects of chemotherapy.

The care givers must be very aware about how to control the side effects without being worry about it and before admitted the hospital. So, particular care is wanted to prevent the complications and also save the care givers from the contact with the medication. And to identify the understanding level of care givers.

Objective of the study

- To assess knowledge regarding side effects of chemotherapy among caregivers.
- To associate the finding with the selected demographic variables.

Methodology

A non-experimental descriptive survey research design was adopted to conduct the study among 100 patients of selected hospitals of Pune City with non-probability purposive sampling technique.

Sample criteria

Inclusion criteria

In this study inclusion criteria are care givers such as; mother, father, brother, sister etc.

Exclusion criteria

In this study exclusion criteria such as: doctors, nurses, students, social workers etc.

Description of Tool

Section I: demographic tool: Deals with the age, gender, family type, education, religion, occupation, family income, duration of chemotherapy, and no. of cycle of chemotherapy.

Section B: Structured questionnaire. Contain 20 Questions, every correct answer score 1 mark each, minimum score was 0 maximum score was 20.

Results

100 patients were selected for data collection from selected hospitals of Pune City.

Section I

Table 1: Distribution of samples according to demographic characteristics: (n =100)

A) Personal data		n -100	
Demographic variables		Frequency	Percentage
Age in year	21-30 Years	37	37%
	31 – 40 Years	28	28%
	41 – 50 Years	20	20%
	above 51 Years	15	15%
Gender	Male	66	66%
	Female	34	34%
Family type	Nuclear family	39	39%
	Joint family	61	61%
Education	Non formal education	22	22%
	Primary	46	46%
	Higher secondary	22	22%
Religion	Others (graduate & postgraduate)	10	10%
	Hindu	86	86%
	Muslim	7	7%
	Christian	5	5%
	Others	2	2%
Occupation	Private sector	37	37%
	Govt. sector	13	13%
	Self employee	9	9%
	Others	41	41%
Family income(annually)	Rs.10,000-20,000	32	32%
	Rs.21,000-30,000	36	36%
	Rs. 31,000-40,000	18	18%
	Above Rs. 41,000	14	14%
B) Clinical Data:-			
Duration of chemotherapy treatment:	4-6 weeks	20	20%
	3-4 weeks	35	35%
	5-6 weeks	22	22%
	Above 1 year	23	23%
No. of cycles of chemotherapy taken	1-3 cycles	29	29%
	4-6 cycles	43	43%
	7-9 cycles	19	19%
	Above 10 cycles	9	9%

Major findings

- 37% of caregivers are in between 21-30 yrs of age 28% care givers are in between 31-40 yrs, 20% care givers are in between 41-50 yrs and only 15% are in above 51 yrs.
- 66% are male care givers and 24% are female care givers.
- 61% care givers from joint family and 39% care givers from Nuclear family.
- 46% care givers had primary education, 44% care givers had non-formal and higher education and 10% care givers had others.
- 86% of care givers from Hindu religion, 14% of care givers from Christian, Muslim and others.
- 41% care givers had others, 37% of care givers had private occupation and 12% of care givers had self employee and Govt. sector.
- 36% of care givers had annual income between s.21,000-30,000, 32% of care givers having had annual income between Rs. 10,000-20,000, 18% of care givers had annual income between Rs.31,000-40,000 and 13% of care givers have annual income above 41 yrs.

- 35% of care givers are in between the duration of chemotherapy treatment of 3-4 week, 23% of care givers are in above 1 yr, 22% of care givers are between the duration of chemotherapy of 5-6 weeks and 20% of care givers are between the duration of chemotherapy treatment of 4-6 weeks.
- 43% of care givers were present during 4-6 cycles of chemotherapy, 29% of care givers were present during 1-3 cycles of chemotherapy and 28% of care givers were

Table 2: Assess the level of knowledge of care givers of cancer patients (n -100)

Sr. No.	Level of knowledge among care givers of cancer patients regarding side effects of chemotherapy	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Good(14-20)	22	22%
2	Average (07-13)	66	66%
3	Poor (0 – 6)	12	12%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows that out of 100 samples the majority (66%) are showing average knowledge, (22%) of the care givers are showing good knowledge and only (12% of) care givers are having poor knowledge regarding

side effects of chemotherapy.

Section II

Table 3: To associate the findings with demographic variables. (n=100)

Demographic variables		Knowledge score			df	P	Chi square
		Poor	average	Good			
Age	21-30	3	24	9	6	0.573	4.768
	31-40	6	17	7			
	41-50	1	14	6			
Gender	<51	3	8	2		0.956	0.089
	Male	8	41	15	2		
	Female	530	22	9			
Family type	Nuclear type	9	24	12	2	0.26	2.62
	Joint type	10	39	12			
Education	Non formal education	4	10	6	6	0.71	3.69
	Primary	6	27	12			
	Higher secondary	3	18	6			
Religion	Graduate and post graduate	0	8	0		0.914	2.056
	Hindu	10	51	22	6		
	Muslim	2	5	2			
	Christian	1	4	0			
Occupation	Others	0	3	0		0.91	2.05
	Private sector	4	28	9	6		
	Govt. sector	3	7	3			
	Self employee	1	6	2			
Family income	Others	5	22	10		0.266	7.62
	RS 10,000-20,000	3	23	4	6		
	RS 21,000-30,000	5	20	11			
	RS. 31,000-40,000	5	9	6			
Duration	<RS 40,000	0	11	3		0.51	5.23
	4-6 weeks	1	13	6			
	3-4 weeks	6	21	9	6		
	5-6 weeks	4	14	5			
No. of cycles	<1 year	2	17	2		0.56	4.86
	1-3 cycles	4	16	8			
	4-6 cycles	7	23	11	6		
	7-9 cycles	2	16	2			
	<10 cycles	0	9	2			

The table no. 3 deals with the association of the knowledge regarding side effects of chemotherapy with selected demographic variables. In age, gender, family type, education, religion, occupation, family income, duration and No. of cycles the P value is above 0.5. Hence there is no association among knowledge and demographic variables.

Discussion

The aim about this exploratory study to determine the knowledge on side effects of chemotherapy among care givers of cancer patients. The study was 100 sample the results

shows that 12% care givers had poor knowledge, 66% care givers had average knowledge and 22% had good knowledge. A study conducted by Jonathan Borges in January 2018 at KLE'S Belgaum cancer hospital, Balagavi. The aim of the study to determine the knowledge on home treatment and its effects on care givers of cancer patients The study was 60 samples and the results shows that 13.34%, caregivers, had a poor knowledge, 75% care givers had average knowledge and 22.33% had good knowledge.

Conclusion

The chapter deals with Discussion, conclusion, limitation, Implications and Recommendations of the study to assess the knowledge regarding side effects of chemotherapy among care givers of cancer patients in selected hospitals of Pune city.

Limitation

1. Study is limited to relatives and caregivers.
2. Sample size is limited and not covering to all entire city.
3. Analysis of the study will based purely on the basis of responses given by the subjects.
4. The study was limited to the experience level of the researchers.
5. Data collection period was only 4 weeks

Recommendation

- A similar study can be replicate in different setting with large population
- A study may be conducted to assess the effect of relatives regarding adverse effects of chemotherapy among care givers of cancer patients.
- A comparative study can be conducted among staff nurses and care givers.

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