

Infection and line blockage were the commonest complications. Trained nurses, reserving image guidance for more difficult cases, can successfully place the majority of PICC catheters. Patient responses indicate a favorable acceptance of a Nurse directed PICC placement programme, due to reduced waiting times, continuity of care, increased surveillance and support post procedure.

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POSTER

### Implementation of guidelines about safe manipulation of cytotoxic agents through a cd-rom.

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Cytotoxic agents possess cytotoxic, carcinogenic, mutagenous and teratogenous properties. For the cancer patient the cytotoxic activity is the determining factor leading to a positive outcome of treatment. For health care workers a potential health risk might exist if these agents are manipulated incorrectly. The level of risk is dependent on the level of exposure but the long term risks of exposure remain difficult to predict. Working with these agents without safety guidelines might however be hazardous in the long term.

The "official" guidelines for the safe manipulation of cytotoxic agents are at most vague and impractical in Belgium, up to shortly, professional cancer nurses felt they were manipulating cytotoxic agents safely and were under unaware about the risks of manipulation e.g. the excreta of patients.

Through interviews and inquiries of members of the Flemish Society of Nurses in Oncology and Radiotherapy (VVRO) it became clear that the procedure of manipulation of cytotoxic agents and potentially contaminated excreta of patients or waste was not according to standard recommendations and often unsafe. Accordingly clear objectives were set by VVRO: establish firm guidelines of safe manipulation, inform and sensitise, implement accurate safety procedures and measures, all of which were to be accredited by the official health authorities. These safety guidelines were presented to all interested parties in October 2002. These guidelines were summarized and presented on a CD-Rom which covers recommendations about preparation, administration, handling of patient excreta and waste and product information. This CD-Rom was largely distributed among all Flemish hospitals.

In a first analysis and feedback to VVRO, the nurses who reviewed the CD-Rom, informed the VVRO about their previous unawareness of the potential risks they were exposed to when manipulating cytotoxic agents because of lack of information and underestimation of the problem. In any case, a domino effect was established to implement the safety recommendations a.s.a.p. The feedback of other health workers such as labour doctors, pharmacists and hospital administrations was positive as well.

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POSTER

### What nursing-sensitive patient outcomes are most relevant to oncology patients at an acute-care university hospital?

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**Background:** The need for nursing-sensitive outcomes data was first identified in the nineteenth century and its significance has been pointed out many times. The lack of common nursing language has been put forward as the main reason why this need has not yet been met. However, the development of the Nursing Outcomes Classification (NOC) may provide new opportunities for outcomes documentation and research within nursing. The purpose of this study was to describe patient outcomes perceived by nurses in clinical practice to be relevant to (a) the general patient population and (b) the patient population within each nursing specialty at Landspítali University - Hospital (LSH). This paper will focus on patient outcomes perceived to be most relevant in oncology clinical practice.

**Method:** The NOC - survey (2nd ed.) which contains 260 nursing sensitive patient outcomes, organized into 29 classes, was used in this study. It was translated from English to Icelandic in a three steps process, tested

and mailed to experienced clinical nurses from all nursing departments meeting sample criteria (N = 560) at LSH in November 2001. Ninety percent of nursing departments in the sample were represented in this study, which includes 4 specialized oncology departments with different patient groups; (1) medical oncology inpatients, (2) oncology outpatients, (3) radiation outpatients and (4) palliative care inpatients.

**Results:** Response rate was 25% (n = 140). Over 95% of respondents had over one year experience within nursing specialty, with 36% having over twenty years of experience in nursing. Eight percent of all nurses at LSH work on oncology departments and they were represented by 5% of the responding nurses. Significant variance (p < 0.05) by nursing specialty was found for the perceived relevancy of twenty - five NOC classes. Two hundred and seventeen (217) NOC outcomes were perceived relevant to oncology patients at LSH, were as 74 were perceived relevant to over 50% of the patients. Twelve patient outcomes identified as most relevant within each of the four oncology departments will be described. The adequacy of NOC to describe nursing - sensitive patient outcomes was perceived acceptable within oncology nursing at LSH.

**Conclusion:** Translation and testing of NOC was successful. NOC is acceptable to document patient outcomes within oncology nursing at LSH. Implications for oncology clinical practice and further development will be addressed.

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POSTER

### "Audiovisual Information as a supplement to oral and written information" From idea to final product - the story of an audiovisual project

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**Background:** During April 2000, the Special Interest Group for research nurses in Denmark initiated a video intended to provide cancer patients and their relatives audiovisual information about clinical trials.

The idea was based on experience from our daily work at the clinic. We felt that many patients and their relatives had difficulties in reading and understanding the written patient information. This could make them reject the participation in clinical trials.

The idea behind this video was not to increase the recruitment of patients, but to ensure that they made their decision based on sufficient oral, written and now - audiovisual information.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to verify whether audiovisual information in combination with oral and written information, gives the patients a better basis for deciding whether, they will participate in clinical trials?

**Method:** After constructing a draft version of the manuscript we co-operated with a professional manuscript writer to perform a storyboard.

The video explains the different phases of a clinical trial, the strict control (GCP) and the patient's safety and rights. The video emphasizes, that participation in a clinical trial may result in extra blood tests, scans and hospitalization.

To ensure the credibility the characters in the video were genuine patients. Our intent was to make the viewers identify with the situation.

The video includes two patients who have reflected upon participating in a clinical trial; one patient who rejects the trial and one who accepts to participate.

Co-operative Cancer Departments and Special Interest Group for research nurses supports this video.

**Conclusion:** We think that audiovisual information in combination with traditional information will support the patient's decision-making in the future. A planned randomized questionnaire will hopefully support this assumption.

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POSTER

### An impact of internal quality control in oncology nursing care

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**Background:** Nursing quality control is one of the major tasks of the leaders in Nursing service. In accordance with the adopted regulations on health-care quality control, we joined the program of phase-by-phase initiation of quality control in oncology nursing care in 1999. In line with the approved standards, written professional instructions and every day