1436

EMERGENCY PROJECT IN ONCOLOGICAL NURSING: EXPERIENCE AT THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE OF MILAN. **E. Majno[1], P.Ciccarese[1], A. Cernuschi[1], N.De Rosa[2], C.Scarcella[2]. [1]National Cancer Institute - Milan, [2]Cooperative for Civil Protection - Brescia, Italy**

The hospital is a technical and organizational structure at high risk, and particular attention has to be paid to the danger of fire. In the oncological hospital, because of its specific structures and equipment, there are a lot of risk sources, such as great quantities of radioactive substances used either for diagnosis or therapy, and aromatic compounds and inflammable products used in the experimental laboratories. A 3-year course to reduce serious consequences of fire both to human beings and structures, has been carried out at the National Cancer Institute of Milan. The aim of this course was the training of an *Emergency Team* inside the Institute and the drawing up of an Emergency Project for the NCI. The NCI *Emergency Team* will transfer the bases of its training programme to other oncological realities and specialized hospitals, and also to the Registred Nurses' Schools and to the follow-up courses of the NCI nursing personnel. The main target for the future will be that of training more and more operators to be practical, skilled and efficient in case of fire. The NCI *Emergency Team* is composed of 15 members, 6 of which are male nurses.

1437

HYPOTHERMIA IN PREVENTION OF ALOPECIA IN PATIENTS IN ANTRACYCLIN-CONTAINING PROTOCOLS

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Alopecia,as a side effect of chemotherapy leads to a profound psychostress impairing further treatment, in the first place by refusing therapeutic procedures inevitably associated with toxic alopecia.
Aim of the work:
I - Assessment the influence of chemotherapy on frequency, time of onset and grade of alopecia in Adriablastin containing protocols in two groups of patients - one group with aplied hypothermia and the other one withouyt hypothermia.
II - Assessment of influence of hypotheramia on frequency, time of onset and grade of alopecia between therapeutic protocol containing Adriablastin and protocol with Adriablastin analogue (Farmorubicin, Thep-rubicin). All patients in this group experienced hypothermia of the skulp.
Our experience revels that hypothermia of the skulp as preventive against alopecia did not gain expected results but it had a very strong positive effect concerning the psycho-emotional conditions i.e. better quality of life of our patients.

1438

PATIENTS AS SUBJECTS OF EXPERIMENTS, THE NURSE'S ROLE?

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The purpose of this paper is to describe which duties, obligations, ethical considerations, and responsibilities nurses have when they work in departments which are active in clinical research.
Many nurses are involved in clinical trials of new drugs, and even more will be involved in the future. This job implies observation, data recording, and not least information to the patients. These nurses must have a thorough knowledge of the implications of the clinical trial, and they must take a position on the ethical questions arising from a clinical trial.
It is a demand at the departments which are active in research with patients as subjects of experiments that the nurses are well-informed, have knowledge and understanding, and feel the responsibility for this work. Some departments have employed researh nurses who are in charge of part of the planning, observation, and data recording. This should not result in others denying interest and responsibility. Nurses can contribute by offering the patient an objective specialist knowledge so that each patient can decide what is right. Furthermore, the observations made by the nurse are very essential contributions to the recording of data, and this may be crucial for the future use or dismissal of a drug.

1439

THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOSPITAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE OUT-PATIENT RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY

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Nurses wish to constantly reduce the strain cancer patients have, as receiving chemotherapy gives them lots of side effects. Previous expericences and anticipations from early treatment can also be a strain for these patients. The environment in which the cancer patient receives treatment will affect the treatment in its self and therefore also influences future expectations to the treatment. The nurses have the opportunity to influence and change the criteria for the environment for example the physical and psycological conditions for the procedures in the treatment. Because of the number of out-patients receiving chemotherapy the knowledge of the nature of the environment, from a out-patient point of view, is a necessity to reduce some of the stress of these patients.

System of procedure

Sixty out-patients receiving chemotherapy are participating in the survey. The survey is carried out partly by a questionnaire, partly by deep penetrating interviews of patients.

Target of the survey

1. The out-patients evaluation of the environment criteria which is significant for the experience of receiving chemotherapy.
2. Out-patients evaluation ot stress factors and suggestions for the improvement of the present environment.

The results form the group of sixty patients are implemented in the survey and will be presented and discussed.

1440

RESEARCH NURSE, MANAGER OF ALL NURSING ASPECTS IN CLINICAL TRIALS.

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Many nurses are involved in clinical trials of new drugs, and even more will be involved in the future. It must be a demand at the departments which are active in research with patients as subjects of experiments that the nurses are informed, have knowledge and understanding, and feel responsibility.
The Department of Oncology, Rigshospitalet, has established a Clinical Research Unit as the first in Denmark. In 1991 I was employed as Chief Research Nurse to be in the frontline with this state of art.
It is my aim in co-operation with my colleagues (nurses in the Department and the research nurses employed in the Clinical Research Unit) in every possible way to establish and increase our level of experience and knowledge and to improve the quality of treatment and care.
The working field is especially phase I and II trials with:
- Evaluation of the nursing sector and the resourses in relation to new clinical trials.
- The practical planing and organizing of clinical projects.
- Instructive and supervising obligations for nurses in the departmens and the Research Nurses attached to the Clinical Research Unit.
- Teaching of nursing staff in clinical trials, both in the starting phase as well as in ongoing trials.
- Responsibility for collecting and reporting of data of ongoing trials.
- Instruction and advice in special patient cases with reference to treatment possibilities.
- Updating and procuring knowledge to the nursing staff concerning clinical projects and research.
- Participation in carrying out treatment and observation of patients in trials as well as in pharmacokinetics.

A presentation and descripion will be given regarding the organization of the nursing, the clinical, the administrative and the educational field.
In hospitals involved in clinical research, nursing positions as described above, should be standard.

1441

ROLE OF A NURSE IN CLINICAL TRIALS AT THE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY AND RADIOLOGY, BELGRADE

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A clinical trial is a study in frame of oncological investigations, designed to answer both scientific questions and problems, and to discover new and better approaches to help the patients.

A nurse as a member of a multidisciplinary team has a very important place and activities:

- to inform the patient about the aim of clinical trials in general,
- to inform the patient about the experimental nature of the treatment and the principles of an eventual randomisation,
- to establish the link between existing clinical practice and requests postulated to the nursing staff by clinical investigations,
- to improve education of nurses),
- to collect and record obtained data and identify possible and potential problems that can occur during the trial,
- to take part in evaluation of results of the trial.

Involvement of experienced oncology nurses into the investigational team will probably contribute to the more efficient and successful conduction of clinical trials and promote further research in oncology.