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CULTURAL ASPECTS OF CANCER NURSING CARE IN ISRAEL

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Cancer patients suffer from symptoms and anxieties related to both their illness and their treatment. The patients' ability to control these symptoms may be limited by lack of knowledge. In providing this knowledge as well as when assessing the patients' needs or making professional judgment, the nurse must pay considerable attention to cultural factors. This is especially true in Israel, which is a country established by immigrants from immigrants, and is a meeting zone between the Middle-Eastern and Western cultures in both everyday life and in medicine.

To illustrate the cultural component in cancer nursing-care, four patients are presented. They are an Israeli born man from Tunisian decent; An immigrant woman from Morocco; An immigrant man from the USA; and an Israeli Arab Beduin man. All of them are treated in the Oncologic day-care unit of the Soroka medical center at Beer-Sheva.

Ideal management includes the foresight to forestall problems that may arise and create either favorable or unfavorable effects that may cause responses to the treatment.

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THE IMPACT OF COMMUNICATION ON THE CHEMIOTERAPIC RITUAL. Scuola Infermieri Prof.li - I.N.T.-Milano - C.MARIELLA
A consistent group of oncological nurses has been trained to communicate hope, positive thinking and beliefs change to patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Health professionals utilized unconscious level communication so that patients would feel no guilt or fear when reframing their illness.

Significant results were obtained by diminishing side effects of the therapy. In a second place an enormous qualitative improvement in the nurse/patient-family relationship. Third, nurses expressed an increased self-esteem, a better involvement in their caring activity and fourth, improvement in patient's response to therapy.

Keywords= * Relational Oncology
* Unconscious communication
* Illness reframing its meaning.

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OUTPATIENT NURSING CLINIC (ONC) IN ITALY: STILL A DREAM?

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We are planning to start an Outpatient Nursing Clinic (ONC) in our two Institutions. The ONC should have autonomy in its activity, with the aim of providing practical informations to the patients, through an improved collaboration between nurses and physicians and a higher level of communication between nurses and patients. Information should concern the disease, the treatment and the possible side effects. The aim of the ONC can be achieved through the training of qualified personnel, constantly updated. In particular, we plan to have periodic meetings with oncology nurses of different Institutions to share different experiences. Methods to achieve our goal are summarized here: 1) Communication nurse/physician - 2) Communication nurse/patient - 3) Nursing flow-sheet - 4) Communication to the patient regarding treatment plans - 5) Communication in detail of the treatment plan through verbal, written and visual (videos or slides) material - 6) Follow-up - 7) Final evaluation of the effectiveness of our model on improving the quality of life of the patient. Planning the intervention in the ONC is aimed at information, prevention and education, as well as at treatment of chemotherapy-related side-effects.

Information: what is chemotherapy

Prevention: how to prevent side effects, such as nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, mucositis, alopecia, leukopenia.

Education: Behavioral modifications which might ameliorate the quality of life.