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Joint Teaching Lecture

183

Translating research into practice: The clinician's point of view

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This contribution will concentrate on drug development according to the profession of the lecturer. Considering that it took more than 50 years to develop about 60 anti-cancer drugs and that these drugs cure or contribute to cure in just 10% of malignancies, it becomes obvious that there is an urgent need to transport new findings from the bench to the bedside. This however is a painfully long, cumbersome process involving a large number of different institutions and regulations, and particularly patients. The translation of research into practice needs patients. In more and more Western countries we face increasing problems in recruiting sufficient numbers of patients for clinical trials. It is estimated that less than 5% of patients with malignant diseases are included into clinical trials. This alarming situation has several roots: increasing regulations and legislation, insufficient manpower in the clinics and increasing patient's autonomy are the predominant factors. Particularly the last aspect confronts the clinician with a new problem: on the basis of information drawn from the internet the patient demands a new treatment no matter in what developmental stage the new method is. To overcome these problems, the public needs to obtain information about the necessity to perform orderly clinical trials in addition to a change in the methodology particularly of phase I and phase II studies and a simplification and standardisation of legislation on a European level.

To demonstrate the value of translating research into practice reference shall be made to treatment of promyelocytic leukemia within retinoid acid, treatment of MALT lymphoma of the stomach with antibiotics and treatment of germ cell cancer with platinum.

184

Evidence based nursing. The key for professional nursing

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It is not uncommon for a decade to pass between the point when a research problem is identified and research-based solutions are translated into standards for care (Dufault et al 1999).

In reviewing nursing literature related to pain assessment of clients suffering from chronic pain (caused by cancer), it is obvious that one barrier to implementing the findings of nursing research into nursing practice is a lack of knowledge and/or understanding about of these research findings. Because many healthcare personal have not been trained adequately in pain management (McMenamin et al 1995) it is recommended to develop and implement pain education programmes, which would also improve nursing practice.

This paper will highlight the need, to develop strategies which educate not only nurse practitioners but also undergraduate nurses in pain assessment. Such strategies would provide a sound knowledge base on which to build more advanced understanding of research based nursing practice in relation to pain and pain assessment. The role models demonstrated by physicians and nurses within the process of assessing and managing pain will also be explored. In conclusion, recommendations for implementing evidence based pain and pain assessment modules into nursing education will be presented.