4209 POSTER

Using Multimedia Information to Improve Outcomes for Lung Cancer Patients and Carers

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Background: To ensure the information provided by The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation is accessible, aids informed decision making about lung cancer treatment and healthcare; and helps to reduce treatment related anxiety.

Materials and Methods: A complete audit: basline audit questionniare completed by 61 lung cancer patients and carers who had not received multimedia lung cancer information. Service development followed by re-audit questionnaire completed by 63 lung cancer patients and carers who had received Living with Lung Cancer multimedia lung cancer information.

Results: The baseline audit revealed a huge problem with lung cancer patients feeling pre-treatment anxiety, partly due to the "unknown" of what treatment would involve. Even after receiving written information booklets, 80% of lung cancer patients felt pre-treatment anxiety, with 74% having problems with fully understanding the treatment being offered. Almost 90% felt that this problem would be helped with the provision of a lung cancer DVD.

Service Development: The Foundation produced a multi-lingual DVD. The DVD aims to improve the lung cancer experiences of both patients and carers from diagnosis by providing practical and emotional advice and visual information.

Reaudit: The re-audit showed overall improvements to lung cancer patient outcomes gained from watching the DVD. Of greatest benefit was using visual information to help people picture in their mind what treatment would involve. Listening to other people's lung cancer experiences helped almost three quarters of people feel a bit more optimistic about the future and helped two thirds of those involved in relieving treatment related anxiety.

Only 34% of people felt optimistic about their future after reading lung cancer information booklets in the baseline audit. This increased to 73% of people feeling more optimistic about their diagnosis after hearing other people's experiences by watching the DVD.

86% of people reported that hearing about other patient's experiences of treatment and how they got through it, in the DVD, would encourage them to stay with their treatment plan and not give up. Furthermore, 70% felt viewing the DVD helped them to appreciate what is involved in planning their treatment and reported that it encouraged them to accept it.

Conclusions: The results of this study indicate that for many the provision of information booklets alone is not the most effective way of informing lung cancer patients and carers. The Living with Lung Cancer DVD is significantly more effective at helping patients and carers interpret and understand lung cancer treatment and care. It is also a very effective tool for helping to relieve diagnosis and treatment related anxiety, along with the feeling of isolation commonly felt by people diagnosed with lung cancer.

4210 POSTER

Spouses of Women With Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer, Their Information- and Support Needs

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Background: The majority of women diagnosed with breast cancer turn to their husbands for support. It is well documented that the health of these spouses is influenced negatively by the cancer diagnosis, and that the risk of depression is increased. Before this study, we did not have focus on the spouses as individuals also in need of information and support.

Aim: The purpose of the study was to identify the information and support needs of spouses to women newly diagnosed with breast cancer. An increased understanding of their needs will help to determine specific interventions intended to improve the clinical nursing practice for this group. An improvement that, according to the literature, also can be of benefit to the breast cancer-stricken wife.

Method: The author conducted a literature search in the electronic databases PubMed and Cinahl. 11 specific research words were used in combination. 6 articles published from 2000–2007 were identified and analysed.

Results: Spouses especially need information concerning the treatment, possible side effects, spread of disease and prognosis. They would also like information written specifically for them. Regarding support it is most important for them to be offered counseling about their cancer-related feelings and experiences, to encounter compassion and to be able to play an active, participatory role when attending the clinic.

Conclusion: I find that spouses' need for information and support are well documented in the literature. Furthermore, the results show that these needs and involvement are of great importance and that their absence can create fear, frustration, sadness and a feeling of powerlessness.

Clinical nursing improvements: As a result of the findings, several improvements have been made in our clinic for the benefit of the spouses and other close relatives. Among these are:

- Active involvement when attending the clinic, and awareness of individual needs for information and support.
- Editing of the clinic's pamphlets to improve their usefulness.
- Documentation and visibility in the nursing journal.
- A teaching session for the nurses concerning men and communication, including gender- specific differences and reaction patterns.

4211 POSTER

The Experience of Leukaemia: a Thematic Synthesis of the Literature

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Background: The impact of haematological malignancies, such as leukaemia, on patients' lives can be profound. The better these impacts are understood, the better health care provision can be as interventions based on patient experience tend to be more effective. A systematic review including a thematic synthesis of qualitative evidence on patients' experience of leukaemia was conducted. Guided from the methods described by Thomas & Harden (2008), the qualitative thematic synthesis aimed at exploring how patients experience living with leukaemia.

Methods: A systematic search strategy was developed comprising of two separate search strings: i) leukaemia (either chronic or acute) and ii) qualitative methodology. Each string included a combination of free-text terms, thesaurus terms and broad terms. The search strategy was run in seven electronic databases (Medline, CINAHL, PsychINFO, EMBASE, BNI & Archive, SSCI and ASSIA), adapted respectively for each. To enhance the retrieval of all relevant reports we conducted additional reference, journal and author searching and contacted the experts on the field. All qualitative studies in adult patients with leukaemia, published in peer review journals between 01/1990 and 10/2010 were included in the final sample.

Results: The search yielded 11,186 articles. Following a screening process and removal of duplicates, 44 articles were retrieved and examined in full by two independent researchers, resulting in the final sample of ten original papers. Reports were appraised for quality using three tools: i) a reading guide proposed by Sandelowski & Barroso (2008), ii) Hawker's checklist and iii) the typology of classifying the findings of the studies by Sandelowski & Barroso (2008). The initial stages of the thematic synthesis were aided by the use of computer software NVivo©. The first stage included free line-by-line coding leading to the second stage were data were organised in a range of descriptive themes, such as information needs, interpersonal relationships, coping strategies and hope. The final synthesis stage resulted in the development of one analytical theme, a person's path to build a renewed self.

Conclusions: Results from this thematic synthesis are indicative of the impact of leukaemia on patients' lives; yet, several limitations exist. Increasing knowledge in this field is warranted to assist in the development of key interventions for individuals diagnosed with leukaemia.

4212 POSTER

Review of Subjective Caregiver Impact − Experience and Needs of Informal Caregivers of Adults/older Adults With Cancer

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Background: The number of older adults with cancer is steadily growing and treatment for cancer has largely shifted to the ambulatory care setting. Informal caregivers provide the main support for older people with cancer treated in this setting. Snyder (2005) developed a model depicting informal caregiver impact when supporting/caring for someone with cancer. The model identifies four domains impacted by undertaking the role of informal caregiver: emotional; spiritual; social/role; and physical. This model was used to frame this systematic review. The authors first sought to appraise and synthesise contemporary literature related to the experience of informal caregivers of people with cancer with particular emphasis on caregivers of