



TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING SIDE EFFECTS OF CHEMOTHERAPY AMONG CAREGIVERS OF PATIENTS RECEIVING CHEMOTHERAPY

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ABSTRACT

Many anticancer drugs are made to kill growing cells. But certain normal get affected too, this damage to normal cells causes side effects of chemotherapy. Objectives: - 1. To assess the knowledge regarding side effects of chemotherapy among caregivers of patients receiving chemotherapy 2. To associate between the knowledge score with selected demographic variables. Methods and Materials: The study was a descriptive study conducted among 30 caregivers of chemotherapy patients from A.V.B.R.H. Sawangi (Meghe) Wardha. Structured knowledge questionnaire were used to collect the data. Results: The knowledge score 10 (33.3%) of caregivers of chemotherapy patient were having poor level of knowledge score, 5 (16.67%) were having average level of knowledge score, (50%) of caregivers of chemotherapy patient were having good level of knowledge score level of knowledge score and none of the caregivers were having both good nor excellent level of knowledge score.

KEYWORDS : knowledge, side effects, chemotherapy, caregiver, patients

INTRODUCTION

Cancers are new growths of the cells in our bodies. Malignant neoplasm refer to the fact that the new growth has virulent or adverse properties that it may display in the body. Through expression of these properties, it can cause destruction of major organs, and in some cases, life threatening disturbances in body function.¹

Cancer is the term used to define the diseases with which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably. These abnormal cells have the ability to 'invade' tissues within the body and are spread through the blood stream and lymph system.²

Cancer cells may grow and divide more rapidly than normal cells; many anticancer drugs are made to kill growing cells. But certain normal, healthy cells also multiply quickly, and chemotherapy can affect these cells, too. This damage to normal cells causes side effects. The fast-growing, normal cells most likely to be affected are blood cells forming in the bone marrow and cells in the digestive tract (mouth, stomach, intestines, esophagus), reproductive system (sexual organs), and hair follicles. Some anticancer drugs may affect cells of vital organs, such as the heart, kidney, bladder, lungs, and nervous system.³

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the knowledge regarding side effects of chemotherapy among caregivers of patients receiving chemotherapy
- 2) To associate between the knowledge score with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research approach- Descriptive approach
 Research design- Descriptive study design
 Setting of study- AVBRH Sawangi, Wardha
 Sample- Caregivers of chemotherapy patients
 Sample size- 30
 Sampling techniques- Non probability convenience sampling

Tool- Structured knowledge questionnaire including demographic variables will be used for the study.

Research variable: Knowledge regarding side effects of

chemotherapy.

Demographic variable: age, gender, education, socio-economic status, occupation, duration of care given, source of knowledge

Sampling criteria

• Inclusion Criteria:

- 1) Caregivers of Chemotherapy patient who are available at the time of data collection.
- 2) Caregivers of Chemotherapy patient who can understand and write English or Marathi.

• Exclusion criteria:

- 1) Caregivers of Chemotherapy patient who have attended similar type of this study.
- 2) Caregivers/patients who are health personnel.

RESULT

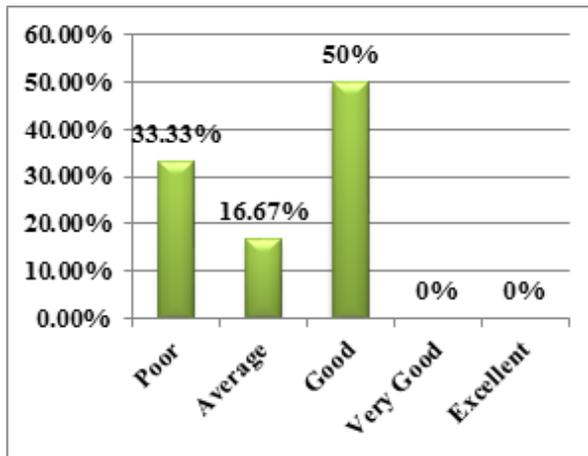
Based on the objectives and the hypothesis the data are analyzed by using various statistical test. The level of knowledge is divided under following headings: poor, average, good, very good and excellent.

Table: 1 Knowledge score regarding side effects of chemotherapy n=30

| Level of knowledge score | Score | Percentage score | Knowledge score | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | | | Frequency | Percentage |
| Poor | 1-3 | 0-20% | 10 | 33.33% |
| Average | 4-6 | 21-40% | 5 | 16.67% |
| Good | 7-9 | 41-60% | 15 | 50% |
| Very good | 10-12 | 61-80% | 0 | 0% |
| Excellent | 13-15 | 81-100% | 0 | 0% |
| Minimum score | 3 | | | |
| Maximum score | 10 | | | |
| Mean score | 6.23 ± 1.924 | | | |
| Mean Percentage | 41.53% | | | |

The above table shows that (33.33%) had poor level of knowledge, (16.67%) were having average level of knowledge and (50%) were having good level of knowledge score and (0%) were having very good level of knowledge and (0%) were having excellent knowledge level. The minimum score was 3 and the maximum score was 10, the mean score for the test was 6.23 ± 1.924 and mean

percentage of knowledge was 41.53%.



Graph 1: Knowledge score of caregivers of chemotherapy patients regarding the side effects of chemotherapy.

DISCUSSION

The finding of the study show that mean and standard deviation was 6.23 and 1.924 respectively. And also the mean percentage of knowledge score of caregivers was 41.53% respectively. So it is concluded that caregivers of chemotherapy patients have knowledge regarding side effects of chemotherapy.

A systematic review examining the practical information needs of informal caregivers providing home-based palliative and end-of-life care to people with advanced cancer was done. Research consistently highlights this lack of practical support, often related to inadequate information exchange. These deficits typically manifest in relatives adopting a 'trial and error' approach to palliative care. Informal carers request a greater quantity of practically-focused information, improvements in quality and increased methods of dissemination. Synthesis of the literature suggests that home-based palliative care services have been insufficiently focussed on assisting informal caregivers acquire practical nursing skills. Enhanced access to professional advice represents a potentially effective method of increasing carers' confidence in their ability to undertake practical aspects of home-based care. Evidence suggests that nurses and other health providers may better assist home-based carers by providing the information and skills-training necessary to facilitate this. This may necessitate the involvement of carers in the design and testing of new educational interventions.¹⁷

Knowledge and information needs of informal caregivers in palliative care: a qualitative systematic review was done to review current understanding of the knowledge and information needs of informal caregivers in palliative settings. Thirty-four studies were included from eight different countries. The evidence was strongest in relation to pain management, where inadequacies in caregiver knowledge and the importance of education were emphasized. The significance of effective communication and information sharing between patient, caregiver and service provider was also emphasized. The evidence for other caregiver knowledge and information needs, for example in relation to welfare and social support, was weaker. There was limited literature on non-cancer conditions and the care-giving information needs of black and minority ethnic populations. Overall, the evidence base was predominantly descriptive and dominated by small-scale studies, limiting generalizability. As palliative care shifts into patients' homes, a more rigorously researched evidence base devoted to understanding caregivers knowledge and information needs is required. Research design needs to move beyond the current focus on dyads to incorporate the complex, three-way interactions between patients, service providers and caregivers in end-of-life care settings.¹⁸

CONCLUSION

In this study from detail analysis it shows that (33.33%) had poor level of knowledge, (16.67%) were having average level of knowledge and (50%) were having good level of knowledge score and (0%) were having very good level of knowledge and (0%) were having excellent knowledge level. The minimum score was 2 and the maximum score was 10, the mean score for the test was 6.23 ± 1.924 and mean percentage of knowledge was 41.53%.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A similar study can be undertaken for large sample to generalize the findings.
- A study can be carried out on not only on knowledge but management of side effects of chemotherapy among the caregivers of chemotherapy patients. A similar study can be conducted on the effectiveness of self instructional module regarding alcohol induced cirrhosis of liver among male.
- A similar study can be conducted on the effectiveness of planned teaching regarding side effects of chemotherapy among their caregivers.

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