

NAME: OLA ADEDOYIN EMMANUELLA

MATRIC NO: 16/MHS02/038

COURSE: MEDSURG

ASSIGNMENT

1. Discuss your nursing responsibilities towards a patient scheduled to receive neoadjuvant treatment for the management of cancer.
2. Discuss your responsibilities towards a patient receiving radiotherapy on an oncology unit where you practice
3. What precautions should you take while caring for a patient receiving chemotherapy in your unit.

A. NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A NEOADJUVANT TREATMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CANCER

The following are the responsibilities of a nurse towards a patient for neoadjuvant treatment:

BEFORE ADMINISTRATION

- Greet and introduce yourself to the patient
- Explain the procedure to the patient, answer all questions asked by the patient and take informed consent

- **PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE:**

The nurse has a responsibility to encourage and support the patient psychologically to make the patient more relaxed and cooperative during the treatment administration.

- **ASSESSMENT:**

The nurse should assess the patient and check for allergies. The nurse should assess the patient's nutritional, fluid and electrolyte status for symptoms such as anorexia, vomiting, nausea e.t.c and encourage the patient to eat adequately to prevent nutritional disturbances.

- **CHECK MEDICATION:**

The nurse should ensure that the rights of medication are followed and the nurse must double check the medication and name of patient to prevent administering the wrong medications.

DURING ADMINISTRATION

- Put on personal protective equipment
- The nurse should call on another nurse to check the medication just to be sure and to avoid administering a wrong medication. This includes the name of the medication, dosage, time, route of administration and patient's identity.
- Check the patency of the IV line to be used for medication
- Emergency spill kits should be made available
- **ADMINISTER MEDICATION:**

The nurse should administer the medication. During administration, the nurse should observe the patient for allergy or any form of reaction to the medications.

- In case of any spillage, the emergency spill kit should be used.

AFTER ADMINISTRATION:

- The IV line used should be flushed and also the procedure carried out must be documented

- Ensure patient is comfortable.
- The equipments used during administration should be properly discarded according to the institutional policy
- Perform hand hygiene
- Take measures to address risk factors that may cause infection or injury in patient.
- Discharge patient and educate family members and care givers on precautions to be taken when handling body fluids from the patient because agents are excreted which may be hazardous to their health.

B. NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RADIOTHERAPY

There are two types of radiotherapy and they include:

- Internal radiotherapy
- External radiotherapy

EXTERNAL RADIOTHERAPY

- Greet and introduce yourself to the patient
- Explain the procedure to the patient, answer all questions asked by the patient and take informed consent

- **PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE:**

The nurse has a responsibility to encourage and support the patient psychologically to make the patient more relaxed and cooperative during the treatment administration.

- **ASSESSMENT:**

The nurse must assess the oropharyngeal mucosa and nutritional status throughout the course of treatment.

- Prior to the start of treatments, the treatment area will be specifically located by the radiation oncologist and marked with colored semi-permanent.
- Monitor for adverse effects: skin changes, such as blanching, erythema, desquamation, sloughing, or hemorrhage; ulcerations of mucous membranes; nausea and vomiting, diarrhea ,or gastrointestinal bleeding.
- Assess lungs for rales, which may indicate interstitial exudate. Observe for any dyspnea or changes in respiratory pattern.
- Identify and record any medications that the client will be taking during the radiation treatment.
- Monitor white blood cell counts and platelet counts for significant decreases.

INTERNAL RADIOTHERAPY

The radiation source, called an implant, is placed into the affected tissue or body cavity and is sealed in tubes, containers, wires, seeds, capsules, or needles. An implant may be temporary or permanent. Internal radiation may also be ingested or injected as a solution into the bloodstream or a body cavity or be introduced into the tumor through a catheter. The radioactive substance may transmit rays outside the body or be excreted in body fluids.

The following are the nursing responsibilities:

- Place the client in a private room.
- Limit visits to 10 to 30 minutes, and have visitors sit at least 6 feet from the client.
- Monitor for side effects such as burning sensations, excessive perspiration, chills and fever, nausea and vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Assess for fistulas or necrosis of adjacent tissues

- The nurse must use protective equipments to protect themselves and the patients.
- Educate the client and family members about procedure.

C. PRECAUTIONS DURING CHEMOTHERAPY

The following precautions must be taken by the nurse while administering chemotherapy:

- Personal protective equipments such as gloves, gowns and goggles must be worn when preparing the chemotherapeutic agents and administering them.
- The medication should be prepared in areas with special ventilation to avoid inhaling or splashing of droplets.
- Disposable long sleeved gowns should be worn while administering chemotherapeutic agents.
- The urine or stool of a patient must be handled with special care and disposed properly as they are exposed to low doses of the agents.
- The nurse must dispose all materials and equipments used during preparation and after administration according to institutional policy.
- In case of leaks or spills, special precautions must be taken.
- Chemotherapy waste should be disposed in leak proof containers and as hazardous materials.
- The nurse must educate the patient and family members or caregivers. The precautions include;
 - Flushing the toilet twice
 - Encourage them to wash their hands with warm water and soap after using the toilet
 - Care givers should wear special gloves while handling the urine and stool of patient.