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Course Title: Advanced Medical/ Surgical Nursing II  
Course Code: NSC 408

Assignment Title: oncology and nursing care of patients with cancer

Discuss your nursing responsibilities towards a patient scheduled to  receive  neoadjuvant  treatment for the management of cancer..

Discuss your  responsibilities towards a patient receiving radiotherapy on  an oncology unit where your practice.

What precautions should you take while caring for a patient receiving chemotherapy on your unit.

Answer

1. **Nursing responsibilities towards a patient scheduled to  receive  neoadjuvant  treatment for the management of cancer**

* **PREOPERATIVE;**
  1. Health educate patient about the condition and procedures
  2. Give psychological support
  3. Obtain informed consent
  4. Monitor vital signs
  5. Monitor patient intake and output
  6. Give prescribed medications
  7. The nurse must communicate frequently with physician and other healthcare workers to ensure that the information provided to the patient and their families members are consistent with the healthcare workers
* **POSTOPERATIVE;**

1. The nurse should assess the patient’s response to the surgery and monitor the patient for possible complications such as infection, Bleeding
2. Monitor fluid and electrolyte imbalance
3. The nurse should provide information such as teaching on wound care
4. Provide education on nutrition
5. Administration of medication
6. The nurse should plan for discharge and also follow up
7. Patient should be allocated to support groups at home

2. **NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES DURING RADIATION THERAPY**

1.Provide education-Many manifestations of radiation therapy do not develop until approximately 10-14 days. And some do not subside until several weeksafter treatment.-The nurse explains the procedure, delivery of radiation, describe theequipment, the duration and the possible need of immobilizing the patient

2.Minimize side effects-In women of child bearing age, RT may cause prolonged or permanent infertility-In prostate radiotherapy, when radioactive seeds have been implanted,there is low, weakly penetrating radiation for others.-Also the client should avoid close contact (<6 feet) contact with pregnantwomen and young children (younger than 3 years)

When a patient has a radioactive implant in place, nurses and other healthcare personnel need to protect themselves as well as the patient from the effects of radiation.

3.Provide a non-stressful environment-Some people who receive radiation to the head and neck experiences redness and irritation in the mouth, a dry mouth, difficulty in swallowing,changes in taste or nausea.-Other possible side effects include a loss of taste, earaches and swelling- the nurse should assist patient with oral toileting and other personal hygiene

5. Some patients feel depressed, afraid, angry, frustrated and alone; the nurse should allocate the patient to a peer of support group in the hospital and also give psychological support

6. The nurse should watch out for side effects such as lose interest in food during your treatment.-Even if the patients are not hungry, it is important to keep your protein and calorie intake high.

Patients should eat when you are hungry, even when it is not meal time.-Eat several small meals during the day rather than 2 or 3 large meals.-Vary your diet and try new recipes.-If you don’t drink alcohol, ask your doctor if you should avoid alcoholduring your treatment.-Keep healthful snacks close by nibbling when you get the urge.

3. **precautions should you take while caring for a patient receiving chemotherapy on your unit.**

a. The caregiver administering chemotherapy should wear non absorbent personal protective equipment

b. Avoid the visit of a pregnant woman or a children to avoid being exposed to radiation

c. Proper disposal of patients waste

d. Don’t disturb should be at the door of the patient receiving chemotherapy

e. Health care workers should wash hands properly after contact with a patient undergoing chemotherapy

F. Patient should be isolated

G. Patients should avoid breastfeeding during chemotherapy treatment