**NAME: ONAFEKO CHRISTIANA OYINDAMOLA**

**MATRIC NO: 16/MHS01/204**

**COURSE CODE: NSC408**

**NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES DURING RADIATION THERAPY**

**1.**Provide education:

**-** Many manifestation of radiation therapy do not develop until approximately 10-14 days. And some do not subside until several weeks after treatment.

**-** The nurse explains the procedure, delivery of radiation, describe the equipment, the duration and the need of immobilizing the patient.

**2.**Minimizing side effects:

**-** In women of child bearing age, RT may cause prolonged or permanent infertility.

**-** In prostate radiotherapy, when the radioactive seeds have been implanted, there is low, weekly penetrating radiation for others.

**-** Therefore the client should use condom during sexual intercourse in the first few weeks after the procedure.

**-** Also the client should avoid close contact (<6 feet) contact with pregnant women and young children (younger than 3 years) for more than 5 minute a day during the first 2 months following implantation.

**-** If systematic symptoms occur, such as weakness and fatigue occur, the patient may need assistance with ADL and personal hygiene.

**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.

**-** Skin texture might change and jaws feel stiff.

**4.**Dental care:

**-** If you wear dentures, they may no longer fit well because of swollen gums. If your dentures can cause gum sores, you may need to stop wearing them until your radiation therapy is over because sores can become infected.

**-** Clean teeth and gums thoroughly with a very soft toothbrush after meals and at least once a day each day.

**-** Use fluoride toothpaste that contains no abrasives.

**-** Use un-waxed dental tape to gently floss between once a day.

**-** Rinse your mouth well with cool water or a baking soda solution after brushing. Use 1 tsp. Baking soda in 1 quart of water.

**-** Apply fluoride regularly as prescribed by your dentist.

**5.**Many patients feel tired due to the radiation therapy which can affect their emotions.

**6.**Patints might feel depressed, afraid, angry, frustrated, alone or helpless:

**-** Peer support groups may meet at your hospital.

**PRECAUTIONS OF DURING CHEMOTHERAPHY**

Chemo gown, chemo gloves. All nursing staff that administers chemotherapy will wear a long-sleeved non-absorbent disposable gown and thick gloves while handling your chemotherapy. Some nurses may also wear protective goggles and face shields.

**A)** Use a plastic bucket:

The nurses give the patient a plastic bowl or bucket and it is thrown away after the chemotherapy session.

**B)** Clean up spills:

If any body fluids or chemotherapy drugs spills, the nurses put on waterproof glove, soak up the spill with paper towels, they should clean around the area with a disposable cloth and soapy water, and rinse the area with water. All the materials used in cleaning should be kept in a plastic bag before disposal.

**C)** Wear disposable gloves:

During the week after the treatment session, the nurses in charge of cleaning must wear disposable gloves when handling clothing or bedsheet soiled with vomit or other body fluids.

**D)** Keep tablets whole:

The nurses should not allow patients to crush, chew or cut their chemotherapy tablets.

**E)** Put medicines in a safe place:

All tablets should be kept in a safe place and out of reach of children.