

ONCOLOGICAL EMERGENCY: AN ASSISTANT AND SENSITIVE LOOK FROM NURSING

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Abstract: Known as the disorderly growth of cells, cancer can invade neighboring tissues and organs. The nurse works with the aim of bringing systematized assistance at all stages of treatment, providing care for the clinical conditions of the cancer patient. The objective of the study was to point out the main competences of nurses in the face of possible oncological emergencies. The methodology used was a bibliographic search on the Google Scholar platform, using inclusion and exclusion criteria and original articles in Portuguese. Based on the data, the importance of identifying signs and symptoms of this type of emergency was verified, as well as the development of the necessary skills to care for and reduce their incidence. It is hoped that this research can contribute to a greater reinforcement of permanent education focused on the subject, in addition to emphasizing the importance of a holistic view and improving the patient's quality of life through therapeutic measures.

Keywords: Oncological Emergency. Nurse. Assistance.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), cancer, also called malignant tumor or neoplasm, is a global expression that characterizes the rapid creation of cells that grow and exceed their natural limits, invade other organs and parts of the body, a phenomenon known as metastasis, which is the main cause of death from cancer.

The oncology nurse evaluates the patient in all his needs, providing assistance at all stages of cancer treatment, ranging from the diagnosis of the disease, going through the various stages of treatment such as surgery, radiotherapy, and treatment with drugs and chemotherapy (ANACLETO et al., 2020).

Oncological emergencies, in turn, are acute

conditions that affect cancer patients and may be related to the antineoplastic treatment itself or to the complications arising from the disease itself. Usually these emergencies arise suddenly and require specialized and immediate treatment so that the patient's condition is stabilized and his life is preserved, and the nurse must be prepared to identify and treat possible complications (LOPES et al., 2022). The objective of the present study is to point out the main competences that govern the nurse in oncological emergencies.

METHODOLOGY

This is an expanded summary where a bibliographic search was carried out on the Google Scholar platform, in which original articles were included, in Portuguese and published in the period from 2020 to 2022 in full, available online and free. The following keywords were used for the research: Emergency; Oncology; Nursing. In addition, articles dealing with oncological emergencies arising from the disease itself or antineoplastic treatment were used as inclusion criteria, and the exclusion criteria were directed towards studies that do not address the role of nurses in oncological emergencies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The nurse's role in assisting cancer patients is to provide all the care relevant to their condition, whether in the physiological or psychological aspect. Thus, in addition to emotional care, it is essential that the professional consider oncological emergencies as a care criterion, since the highest rate of this condition occurs through the cardiovascular, metabolic, hematological, neurological and respiratory systems, so that, thus, there is an effective assistance in the diagnostic evaluation, treatment, care and rehabilitation. Although the choice regarding the treatment method is a matter of medical competence,

the nurse, with his clinical experience, is the main executor of the conducts that will be adopted, as well as the evaluation of the results obtained.

Oncological emergencies can arise both in the initial phase of cancer, which may be one of the factors for the diagnosis, as in the progression of the disease, or even during ongoing antineoplastic treatment, being a side effect of the same. In many cases, the beginning can be months or hours, with the risk of evolution to irreversible states. In this context, so that each nurse can improve their respective interventions and avoid a worsening of the patient's condition, it is necessary that they have knowledge and skills to distinguish signs and symptoms of an oncological emergency and, based on the identification, advance in the prescription of care and intervene appropriately, in order to avoid the worsening of the condition or the imminent risk of death of the patient.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Evaluating the particularities of oncological emergencies, it is concluded that the importance of adequate preparation of nursing professionals becomes essential not only to identify an oncological emergency, but also to know how to act in a safe and qualified way on these occasions. Therefore, it is necessary that nursing care can consider the physiological and psychological aspects of the patient, with a holistic view to act in a technical, empathetic, decisive, safe and reassuring way.

However, it is important to reinforce permanent education so that nurses are constantly updated by providing guidance, mastering skills aimed at programming preventive measures, favoring the provision of care for the condition that the client is in all its nuances in the critical and semi-critical process.

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