Exploring the symptomatology of adults with acute leukemia

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Disclosures

- No disclosures or conflicts of interest to report
“...unless the direction of science is guided by a consciously ethical motivation, especially compassion, its effects may fail to bring benefit. They may indeed cause great harm.”

~Dalai Lama
Symptomatology in Patients with Cancer

Faculty: Intervention

Faculty: Descriptive

T32: Pilot Intervention Study

T32: Descriptive Research in AL

Dissertation
A Supportive Care Study for Women with Advanced Ovarian Cancer

Purpose:
- To examine the feasibility as well as the effects of the combined intervention of flaxseed oil, fasting, caffeine, and exercise on OC tumor growth

Methods:
- Quasi-experimental intervention

Findings:
- Efficacy regarding the combined intervention remain unanswered.
- Actively participating in physical activity while receiving treatment may improve: Physical symptoms (peripheral neuropathy), Psychological consequences (mood, stress), HRQoL
- Patients may be fearful about participating in physical activity and thus may need support and encouragement.

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Symptomatology in Patients with Cancer

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Dissertation
Acute Leukemia

• Acute Leukemia (AL)
  – Requires immediate and aggressive treatment (Pulte et al 2010; Radaelli et al. 2004)
  – Long periods of hospitalization (Dohner et al. 2010; Estey & Dohner 2006)
  – 60-90% achieve complete remission (Burnett 2005)
  – Disease relapse occurs in majority of patients within 3 years (Dohner et al. 2010; Chevallier et al. 2011)
  – 5-year survival rate: (Howlander et al. 2012)
    • Acute Myloid Leukemia (AML) = 23.9 %
    • Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) = 65.2 %
Consequences of Treatment

• Patients with AL:
  – often experience numerous symptoms (Manitta, et al, 2011)
  – treatment associated complications lead to longer hospitalizations (Redealli et al, 2004; Efficacer et al, 2007)
  – high risk of negative consequences of treatment without any benefit (Redealli et al, 2004; Efficacer et al, 2007)
Symptom Management & Psychosocial needs in Patients with Acute Leukemia

Purpose:
- The purpose of this preliminary study was to better describe the symptom experience of patients with AL across the disease trajectory.

Method:
- Descriptive longitudinal convergent mixed methods

Findings:
- Patients with AL experience multiple concurrent symptoms, distress and decreased HRQoL during treatment
- Long hospitalization and facing the unknown is difficult
- Multidimensional symptom assessment is important

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Symptomatology in Patients with Cancer
Systematic Intervention to Ease Distress in Patients with AL

Purpose:
– To explore the feasibility and potential efficacy of providing STARTED in patients hospitalized for treatment of AL

Methods:
– Longitudinal quasi-experimental before (using historical control study) and after intervention pilot study

Findings:
– There may be important benefits to using an interdisciplinary team to manage symptoms and distress in adults with AL
Symptomatology in Patients with Cancer

Faculty: Intervention

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Dissertation
Exploring Relationships between Immunologic Profiles, Symptoms and Distress in AML

Purpose:
– To explore the relationships among PRO, immunologic and cytogenetic profiles in AML during induction chemotherapy.

Methods:
– Longitudinal descriptive study

Findings:
– Currently in data analysis. Preliminary findings:
  – Patients experience multiple co-occurring symptoms
    • Pain, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Anxiety and Distress
  – Different cytogenetic patterns may predict certain symptoms
  – Pro-inflammatory cytokines were found to be present and may predict certain symptoms
Purpose:  
  - Examine the relationships among symptoms, stress, and biological correlates of stress in primary family member of adults undergoing treatment for AML

Methods:  
  - Longitudinal descriptive exploratory design

Findings:  
  - Currently in data analysis. Preliminary findings:  
    • Show family members experience moderate to severe distress, anxiety, depression, sadness, fatigue and disturbed sleep.  
      - Highest symptom burden found at week 4  
    • While family needs were met at week 1 of hospitalization, family members reported needs were more often not met in the following 4-weeks of treatment.
Symptomatology in Patients with Cancer

Faculty: Intervention

Faculty: Descriptive

T32: Pilot Intervention

T32: Descriptive Research AL

Dissertation
Purpose:
– Determine the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of the BSMA program involving PA in patients receiving consolidation treatment for AML.

Methods:
– Quasi-experimental cohort control study design

Findings: pending
Symptomatology in Patients with Cancer

Faculty: Future

Faculty: Intervention

Faculty: Descriptive

T32: Pilot Intervention

T32: Descriptive Research AL

Dissertation
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Questions?

Thank you.

“We have to ask ourselves whether medicine is to remain a humanitarian and respected profession or a new but depersonalized science in the service of prolonging life rather than diminishing human suffering.”

~Elisabeth Kubler Ross
References


