



Promoting Quality Care with Patients Who Were Newly Diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia



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Introduction

The most common treatment for patients with acute myeloid leukemia is chemotherapy. However, patients facing this for the first time often suffer from unpredictable side effects, together with physical and psychological impacts. These side effects include prolonged and exhausting treatment protocols, daily hassles, and uncertain outcomes of their illnesses. The aim of this study was to apply Swanson's theory to care three patients who were newly diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

Methods

The author who was a primary nurse and researcher, applied Swanson's Caring Theory, which provided assessment and intervention through physical examinations, interviews, and observations to collect data during the nursing process. Twelve process-recordings were completed, and content analysis was used to analyze the data.

Results

Three major nursing problems were identified: the risk of infection, altered body image disturbance, and feelings of hopelessness. During the nursing intervention using Swanson's Caring Theory, it facilitated the nursing process of "knowing" and "being with" the patients while providing care and attentive listening to help the patients open up and share their personal views. This increased their self-awareness of side effects. Through "doing for" and "enabling," infection control measures were implemented, and management of side effects was identified to promote self-awareness and self-caring strategies and address body image disturbance. Furthermore, by "maintaining the patients' belief," accompanied by encouragement and attention from family members, the three patients were guided to recognize and foster positive thinking, increase self-worth, and accept the challenges of dealing with the treatment and side effects.

Conclusion

By applying Swanson's five caring processes, nurses can build significant relationships with patients and execute nursing plans effectively. The nursing experience from this study provides valuable insights for promoting quality care for patients in similar conditions.

Keywords

Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Quality Care, Swanson's Caring Theory