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Abstract 1 Patient safety in cancer care setting

Patient safety is a key subset of health care quality. Cancer care is highly complex, often requiring tightly coordinated care across different specialties and professions, highly specialized staff, and dependent on the timely delivery of evidence-based care. In cancer care setting, the care often includes high-risk treatments. Moreover, the people with cancer are particularly vulnerable population within the healthcare system, with any error potentially being harmful to a population whose health is already compromised. The financial and economic costs of safety lapses are high. Unsafe care can lead to significant harm, making preventive measures vital. Errors in medication management and administration, diagnosis, and surgery, as well as healthcare-associated infections, are common risks that can severely impact health of people with cancer, care outcomes, and in general trust in healthcare systems. Ensuring patient safety in cancer care is crucial due to the high risks involved with complex cancer treatments. Addressing the risks is a multidisciplinary challenge and essential in prevention of adverse events, serious consequences of errors and psychosocial effects on patients and the staff. Pharmacists and cancer nurses are in the front line on prevention, detection and handling of adverse events in cancer care.

Abstract 2 Patient education in interprofessional practice as means to improve safety

Patient education is a critical component of safe delivery of cancer care. Functioning interprofessional practice significantly contributes to the enhancement of the safety. By fostering a collaborative environment where healthcare professionals from various disciplines and professions work together, patient education initiatives can be more effectively designed and delivered. This approach ensures that patients receive comprehensive information, tailored to their unique needs, which then empowers them to participate actively in their own care. Such participation is crucial for the prevention of medical errors and the improvement of health outcomes of people with cancer. Quality patient education is prerequisite for safety in high risk oncology therapies. Interprofessional education efforts that include patients as active partners create a culture of safety and shared responsibility, which is essential for the delivery of high-quality healthcare. Moreover, the integration of patient education into interprofessional practice not only benefits the patients but also enhances the communication and teamwork among healthcare providers, leading to a more cohesive and efficient cancer care.

BIO

Dr (PhD) Virpi Sulosaari has a cancer nursing background. On her PhD she explored the competences and education of nurses and nursing students. She has worked with different types of health care organisations on development of medication safety. She led a working group on Finnish Medicine Information Network for eight years, one area of the network being medication safety. Currently, she is a principal lecturer in the Master School of Health and Well-being in Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland and a research group leader of Advancing Supportive Cancer and Palliative Care group. She is the current President of the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS).