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Oncology Nurses' Attitudes, Knowledge and Practices in Providing Sexuality Care to Cancer Patients: A Scoping Review

Abstract:

Sexual health in cancer care is often overlooked. This study examines oncology nurses' knowledge and practices regarding sexuality care, identifying barriers and facilitators. A Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)-guided search of Scopus, ScienceDirect, PubMed, and EBSCO focused on studies from 2014 to 2024. Of 1735 identified studies, only 11 met inclusion criteria. Findings revealed a lack of knowledge among nurses and dissatisfaction with sexual healthcare. Barriers include time constraints, cultural factors, and personal reservations. Routine discussions are often absent due to inadequate training. Education- and system-based strategies are needed to enhance nurses' competence in addressing sexual concerns. Implementing training programs, structured records, evaluation tools, concept maps, and system support would improve patient care and oncology nursing practices. Addressing these gaps with practical measures can enhance communication, patient satisfaction, and quality of life. This unique analysis was conducted by two experienced advanced nurses in the Middle East, where discussions about sex are often regarded as taboo.

Biography

Omar Al-Qaisi from Al-Zaytoonah University is a nursing expert in oncology and emergency medicine. He holds a master's degree in emergency and disaster medicine from Al-Zaytoonah University. He currently works as a part-time clinical instructor at Al-Zaytoonah University and also at the Military Oncology Center. He has experience using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) and the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) for research. His recent research focuses on sexual healthcare, selenium, orthopedics, sleep quality, pain management and patient satisfaction in oncology patients.