NURSING CARE OF PATIENTS WITH HEMATOLOGICAL MALIGNANCIES IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

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ABSTRACT

Overall survival and quality of life of the patients with malignant diseases, especially with hematological malignancies, have improved significantly in the last years. Early diagnosis and aggressive treatment, including the hematopoietic stem cell (bone marrow) transplantation modality, have led to the increase survival rate of such patients. Simultaneously, these opportunities generate increasing number of individuals requiring the intensive care due to various complications of malignant disease and/or its treatment.

This bachelor thesis is designed as theoretical-empirical study. The theoretical part provides the review and analysis of current literature and discusses particular specifics of nursing care of patients with hematological malignancies in the intensive care setting. Pancytopenia-associated immunosuppression and infection risk, the need of barrier-approach principles of nursing care will be described. Next, bleeding conditions and restricted transfusion politics, telling unfavorable information to the patients and their families and last but not least the palliative care principles are reviewed too.

The empirical part of the thesis is processed as the qualitative research in the form of two case reports. They describe in detail health condition, its time course and mainly the specific nursing care of two patients with hematological malignancies within the intensive care unit.

The result of the bachelor thesis is detailed and integral review of nursing methods and procedures within the care of critically ill hematological patients. The brochure summarizing this topic is the main outcome.

Key words