ABSTRACT

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) is a rare disease (estimated incidence is one case for one million people per year), which nature is uncontrollable reproduction of infectious prion protein in brain tissue. In some cases, the disease might have long incubation time but then very fast progression and in all cases, it ends with death. Nowadays we do not know curative treatment and the patient depends only on palliative treatment.

The main goal of my Thesis is to describe a nursing care of a patient with this disease and to emphasize the importance of the palliative care. Partial goal is to describe disease progression (clinical condition of the patient) from the admission to the hospice until the end of her life (total of 27 days) and to increase knowledge about this disease among the medical staff. I also set a goal to find out specifics of care of patients with this disease.

The Thesis is written as case report of a specific patient with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The methodology for case report is detailed study of patient’s medical documentation in the hospice and cooperation with nursing staff and doctors.

Based on the case report I can state that palliative care does not differ a lot for varied diseases of patients, however for patients with CJD the specific is the preventive use of disposable material. Very important fact is also that all suspicions of TSE must be reported and consult with the only specialised workplace in Czech Republic. At this workplace also, the mandatory autopsy is done after death of all patients with this disease, because the definitive diagnosis can be proved only after the autopsy.

keywords: nursing care, palliative care, terminal stage, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, patient