An Oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner

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The Effects of High Dose Intravenous Vitamin C in Cancer Patients

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Time: 10:30 am to 11:05 am
Place: Remote

Abstract

Problem: Currently used standard treatments (Chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, etc.) in cancer patients are generally accompanied with side effects, which may include pain, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) during and after completion of treatments. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to explore the effect of high dose intravenous vitamin C (IV C) to prevent major side effects in cancer patients and measure quality of life.

Background: High dose IV C may improve the anti-cancer action of chemotherapeutic agents by reducing side effects of fatigue, pain, nausea, vomiting, and boost immune cell functioning, and inhibit angiogenesis (Mikirova, Casciari, & Hunninghake, 2019).

Methods: An observational, descriptive, cohort study utilized a retrospective medical record review. A Plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycle was utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of IV C in cancer patients.

Results: A total number of twenty \(N=20\) charts of participants who received IV C therapy for different types of cancer were reviewed. There were fourteen females \((N=14, 70\%)\) and six males \((N=6, 30\%)\) who underwent the therapy. Seven \((N=7, 35\%)\) of the patients received IV C/Traditional and thirteen \((N=13, 65\%)\) received IV C only. It was noted that, none of the participants reported any side/adverse effects to IV C and they all had improved quality of life.

Implications: There were little to no side/adverse effects noted, therefore IV C may be a good alternative therapy to treat cancer patients. Monitoring these patients for a longer period of time may yield more beneficial results.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

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