Problem:
Nursing care quality improvement requires knowledge/skill of research utilization. Radiation Oncology Clinic nurses expressed limited exposure to current medical literature and educational needs about statistics and critique/appraisal skills.

Evidence:
To organize a unit-based journal club, information was gathered from PubMed databases using the search terms: radiation, nursing, patient education

Strategy:
The clinic’s nurse manager arranged a series of EBP in-services, an organized library class schedule, journal club facilitation, and coordination of participants’ roles. Relevant, interesting, radiation-oncology nursing articles/studies were selected and communicated via email; along with dates, times, and locations of journal classes and meetings. Volunteers were enlisted to critique articles using an evidence summary table. An advanced practice nurse mentor provided guidance for research literature critiques and research and statistical terms/definitions. Attendance was not mandatory; however, participation was recognized in nurses’ performance evaluations. Food was provided to increase attendance.

Practice Change:
The journal club met seven times within one year. A reviewed study about development of a weekly newsletter for radiotherapy patients inspired a unit-based project: creation and implementation of a weekly patient newsletter.

Evaluation:
Participants provided feedback, learning needs, and suggestions for journal club and EBP project improvement.

Results:
Eighty percent of the clinic’s nurses (n= 28) attended classes and critiqued 7 articles during journal club meetings. However, maintaining attendance/participation due to waning interest and lack of time was challenging; often caused by practice changes implemented in the clinic.

Recommendations:
The following strategies are recommended to assist with journal club challenges: Careful selection of dates/times that do not interfere with patient care or other institutional activities; providing food/beverages at meetings; and recognizing journal club participation in nurses’ performance evaluations. A journal club provides an effective method to keep nurses informed about current evidence in the literature, improve knowledge/understanding of statistics, and promote evidence based-practice.

Bibliography: