Clinical Nursing Practice Guidelines for Cholangiocarcinoma Patients  
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Problem:  
Khon Kaen, Northeast, Thailand has one of the highest incidences of  
cholangiocarcinoma in the world (Vatanasapt, 1995). However, clinical nursing  
practice guidelines (CNPGs) for patients with cholangiocarcinoma have yet to be  
established. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to develop evidence-based CNPGs  
for patients with cholangiocarcinoma.

Evidence:  
Although studies regarding cholangiocarcinoma have been published, they do not  
reliably document nursing practice guidelines for patients with this condition.

Strategy:  
An organizing committee was established to develop the CNPGs. The committee  
implemented a comprehensive literature search using keywords related to symptom  
management, pain management, chemotherapy, abdominal drainage, surgery and  
palliative care. For each of the twenty-two articles retrieved, the level of evidence and  
the strength of recommendation were determined. Following an analysis of current  
evidence, a draft of the CNPGs was prepared by the Publishing Committee.

Practice Change:  
The development of CNPGs will facilitate standardization of patient-centered care and  
a reduction in existing variations in practice, leading to improved quality of care.

Evaluation:  
The CNPGs were appraised by clinical experts using the Appraisal of Guidelines for  
Research and Evaluation Instrument, followed by a pilot study to evaluate the  
feasibility of implementation. The guidelines were tested with 30 patients admitted in  
surgery and chemotherapy wards and 10 patients in outpatient room by 10 nurses.

Results:  
The findings revealed that the CNPGs were feasible. All nurses were satisfied with the  
CNPGs. The CNPGs also strengthened nurses’ confidence in nursing practice.

Recommendations:  
Although this study shows the feasibility of implementing CNPGs for patients with  
cholangiocarcinoma, further study is required to determine if these CNPGs works in  
other contexts. As knowledge is advanced in this arena, further revision of the CNPGs  
should be published.
Lesson Learned:
The process of developing and implementing CNPGs is challenging. It requires a rigorous methodology and extensive collaborative work. Although, the process was time consuming, the anticipated outcomes are well worth the effort.

Bibliography:


Keywords: Clinical nursing practice guidelines, Cholangiocarcinoma patients