




Knowledge of nursing professionals about the use of personal protection equipment in the administration of antineoplastic chemotherapy

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1 INTRODUCTION

The professional who handles antineoplastic chemotherapy without the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is at risk of presenting from simple symptoms such as headache, dizziness, vomiting, alopecia, allergic reactions, and mucosal changes, to more serious effects, such as mutagenicity, carcinogenicity and teratogenicity caused by improper absorption of these substances.

These antineoplastic drugs can be improperly absorbed by professionals who work directly with them without the use of safety measures, through the inhalation of aerosols, direct contact with the skin and mucous membranes, through the excreta of patients who receive chemotherapy, and through the ingestion of drugs and food contaminated by residues, all these forms of contamination can bring changes to the health of the worker. Therefore, the study aims to investigate the knowledge of nursing professionals about the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the administration of antineoplastic chemotherapy.

2 METHODOLOGY

This is a cross-sectional study, with a quantitative approach, of the descriptive-exploratory type. The sample was intentional, consisting of 22 professionals who are members of the nursing staff of the chemotherapy unit of a university hospital in Recife-PE. It is worth noting the fact that all employees participated in the study. **CONCLUSION:** To protect professionals while handling chemotherapy drugs and excreta from patients undergoing chemotherapy, it is considered essential to adopt measures to prevent



occupational risk, aimed at protecting the physical integrity of workers. Therefore, it is extremely important to use PPE when handling chemotherapy. For this purpose, Law nº 6.514/77, Section IV art. 166, obliges the company to provide the appropriate PPE for work, and under NR 32 – Regulatory standard that provides for safety and health at work in health services, it is prohibited to start any activity without the use of PPE.

Regarding the administration of antineoplastic drugs, the nursing team demonstrated knowledge of the appropriate PPE that should be used. Despite this, there was a deficit in the knowledge of these professionals regarding the identification of adequate clothing during the removal of the antineoplastic, indicating the need for a more detailed approach to the subject. Thus, it is concluded that it is necessary to sensitize professionals to use such equipment, encouraging them through continuous training, since among the security measures, PPE are a fundamental piece in risk prevention.



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