

## Effectiveness of Certificate Program on Oncology Nursing

Capt. Usha Banerjee<sup>1</sup>, Ms. Babita Sen<sup>2</sup>, Ms. Ruchi Girdar<sup>3</sup>, Ms. D.Maryline Flinsi<sup>4</sup>  
and N Rathina<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Apollo Hospitals Group

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### Abstract

Oncology nursing is a specialty practice. Continuing Nursing education on knowledge and clinical skills will enable the nurses to provide high-end quality care. Oncology certificate program impart training to nurse to develop knowledge and skill have on regarding chemotherapy management, care to patients receiving radiation therapy, and acquire competency in central line management, etc. One month certificate program on Oncology Nursing Center of Excellence (COE) with the title ?Fight the Fight? was organized in discussion with consultants to enhance the knowledge and skill of the nurses for the specialty practice across the Apollo group. A customized tool kit was designed to serve as a guide for the COE activities of the month. Six Apollo hospital across the country who has specialized oncology unit has taken up the program simultaneously. A quasi - experimental one group pretest and posttest were done to assess the effectiveness of the program in Apollo Hospital, Delhi. The campaign enhanced the knowledge of nurses about cancer and its treatment, to improve the quality of life of patients. The study showed that there was a significant difference in the Pre-test and post-test knowledge score of the staff nurses. Therefore the certification program on oncology Nursing was found to be effective.

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*Index terms*— oncology, nursing, staff nurses, cancer, survivors, certificate program.

### 1 Introduction

he nursing profession is unique among the health care professions and has the potential capacity to implement wide-reaching changes in the health care system. Nursing is the largest workforce in the health care segment and has an immense need of well-trained nurses who are not only technically sound but also specialized in various fields and abreast with the latest health care technologies Nursing is one of the professions that is evolving rapidly. Lifelong learning is inevitable in the nursing profession. Nursing knowledge gets transformed through research evidence and the incorporation of theory in to nursing practice. Nursing research utilization of nursing process hones the clinical nursing practice. Evidence based nursing interventions focus on influencing the health status and quality of life of the cancer patients. Nursing continuing education create an opportunity for nurses to learn and advance their techniques in safe patient care. Nurses attain the ability to deliver quality nursing care through education incorporated with clinical experience. Moreover on job training and education is also considered as an imperative strategy for the retention of nurses.

Center of excellence campaign on Oncology Nursing was conducted in September 2018 as a part of clinical differentiation, a lever of Annual operating plan. Oncology nursing is a specialty practice. The training has focused on the knowledge and practice of providing care to cancer patient. Continuing nursing education on knowledge and clinical skills will enable the nurses to provide high end quality care. The educational program impart training to nurse to develop knowledge and skill have on regarding chemotherapy management, care to patients receiving radiation therapy, and acquire competency in central line management, etc.

## 12 CONCLUSION

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43 **2 II.**

44 **3 Materials and Methods**

45 **4 a) Research approach**

46 The study was conducted using quantitative research approach.

47 **5 b) Research design**

48 Quasi -experimental one group pretestposttest research design.

49 **6 c) Research setting**

50 In September 2018 the study was conducted in Indraprastha Apollo Hospital New Delhi.

51 **7 d) Sample and sampling technique**

52 The sample size is 40. Convenient sampling technique was used to select staff only from the units where oncology  
53 patient are treated.

54 **8 e) Tool**

55 The knowledge of the staff nurses before and after the certificate program was assessed with structured knowledge  
56 questionnaire.

57 One month certificate program was designed for Oncology Nursing Center of Excellence in discussion with  
58 consultants to enhance the knowledge and skill of the nurses for the specialty practice across the Apollo group.  
59 The theme of the program is "Fight the fight". A customized tool kit was designed to serve as a guide for the COE  
60 activities of the month. Eminent consultants of the oncology department and HODs of dietary and radiation  
61 department has taken classes. Health care company personnel were also involved in special training of Ostomy  
62 care and biomedical equipment management. organized exclusively for the pediatric patients like a poster, poem  
63 writing, drawing, coloring, magic shows, etc. Gifts were given as a token of appreciation for all the children who  
64 participated.

65 The posters were displayed in the notice board in the ward and prominent places as advised by the management.

66 ? Health Camp: The participants along with the help of the marketing department have organized health  
67 camps for screening and created awareness about cancer.

68 **9 ? Role of a Nurse in OT during Oncology surgery:**

69 The observational visit to the operation theatre for the nurses form wards and classes on instrumentation,  
70 preparation, complications during surgery & its readiness and pre & post-op care.

71 ? Common mistakes Nurses make: The incidences, common complaints that consultants make and feedback  
72 from quality team, nursing leaders and staff nurses of the last one year was analysed.

73 Based on the analysis report the importance of error reporting and ways to prevent the errors were discussed  
74 by the consultants. ? End of life care & Palliative management: The pain management team along with the  
75 social workers has taken classes on Palliative care of the cancer patients and End of life care.

76 **10 Cancer survivor's meet:**

77 The department have arranged a meeting for the cancer survivors with the support of their consultants and  
78 marketing team and invited motivational speakers to address the patients and their care givers. ? Caring for  
79 the care giver: To replenish the positive energy among the nurses a sessions like ZUMBA, aerobics, Yoga were  
80 arranged for the participants.

81 Post test: All the participants were made to write the post -test ? Closing ceremony: All the units have  
82 organized a closing ceremony and felicitated the participants with certificates and the participants who scored  
83 highest in pre& post-test were given a token of appreciation.

84 III.

85 **11 Results**

86 The pretest and post score was analyzed to assess the effectiveness of the certificate programme. The calculated 't'  
87 value 7.46 is more than the table value 1.990 at df 78 the mean difference between the pretest and posttest score  
88 is significant at 0.05 level of significance and not by chance .So the one month certification program on oncology  
89 nursing was effective in increasing the knowledge of the staff nurses.

90 IV.

91 **12 Conclusion**

92 The campaign enhanced the knowledge of nurses about cancer and its treatment, to improve the quality of life  
93 of patients. It enhanced the competency of nurses for providing better nursing care to the patients.The nurses

94 gained knowledge about cancer, risk factors, screening, and the importance of early diagnosis. An awareness was  
 95 created among the nursing staff about Palliative care, Pain management for ONCO patients, Handling of invasive  
 96 lines, infection control practices, Handling of biomedical equipment. There was a significant improvement in the  
 97 knowledge of nurses on chemotherapeutic drugs its administration and complications. Nurses gained more insight  
 98 in to the radiation oncology procedures and side effects. Nurses gained a better understanding of the fears and  
 99 barriers faced by people when talking about cancer. Nurses were able to confidently communicate and promote  
 100 cancer awareness; highlighting key messages clearly and appropriately. They were able to guide people to relevant  
 101 health and information services. They were empowered to include cancer awareness conversations in their role  
 102 and made difference in their clinical areas. The nurses were able to impact of lifestyle on cancer risk and able to  
 encourage people to make healthy lifestyle changes. <sup>1 2</sup>

CALENDAR FOR ACTIVITIES						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Opening ceremony & Pre-test (Oncology Nursing)	Common Cancers in India & Cancers we see at Apollo (An awareness)	Medication management	Extravasation & its management
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Care of Thalassemic patients (Handling of Blood & Blood products)	Pre & post operative management of Cancer patients	Case presentation on common cancers	Panel discussion on BMT	Activity /Investigations & Diagnosis (Lab, Radiology etc)	Workstation on colostomy care
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Case study	We know, food matters Importance of diet for Once patients	Radiation Oncology	Biomedical equipment	Activity / Lines & drains	Camp/ Ca Breast screening
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Role of a Nurse in OT during Oncology surgery	Common mistakes Nurses make	End of life care & Palliative management	Survivor's Meet and Motivational Speaker	Caring for the care giver (Activity for staff)	Closing ceremony & Post test
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

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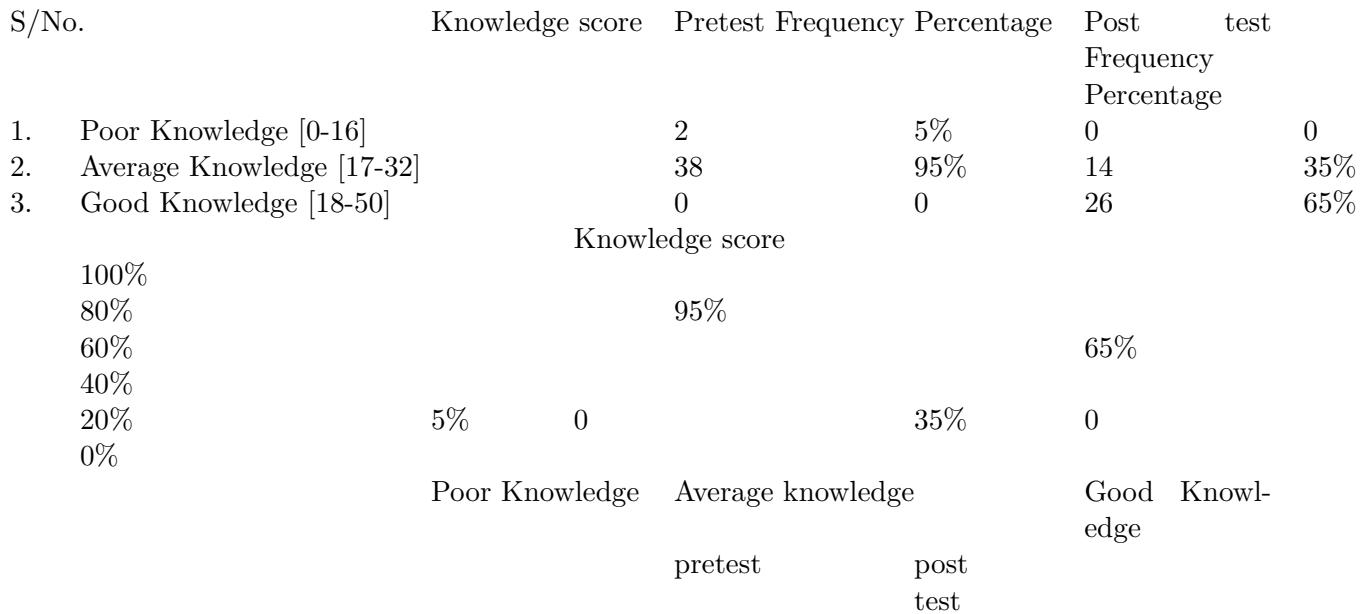
Figure 1: Fig. 1 :

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## 12 CONCLUSION

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[Note: Fig. 2: Shows the percentage distribution of the increase in knowledge score after the certificate programK]

Figure 2: Table 1 :

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Item	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean difference	Standard error of mean difference	"t" test
Pre test Post test	23.5 33.65	4.16 7.6	10.15	1.36	7.46

Figure 3: Table 2 :