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Literary Review



June to August 2017

Title	Publication	Date	Overview
Cancer-related acute pain: a systematic review of evidence-based interventions for Putting Evidence into Practice	Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, Vol. 21, No. 3, (supplement), pages 13-30.	June	Article presents current evidence supporting interventions to reduce acute cancer-related pain, including mucositis pain. Overall, it suggests that no strong, well-designed studies exist to specifically support the use of oral morphine rinses for the treatment of mucositis pain. Also, whilst one small study of patients with head and neck cancer showed a significant reduction in mucositis-related pain with the use of honey compared to the control group, it suggests the benefits of this low-risk intervention should be confirmed with additional studies with larger samples.
Oral care: exploring education, attitudes, and behaviors among nurses caring for patients with breast cancer	Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, Vol. 21, No. 3, pages 371-378.	June	A study found that oncology nurses' attitudes toward learning about oral health-related care, engaging in skills training and providing care were positive, but that they may underestimate the impact of oral side effects such as mucositis. It also suggests that whilst close monitoring, evaluation and severity grading of mucositis is important, this is often not practiced as sufficiently as it should be.
Heads Up: a pilot trial of a psychological intervention to improve nutrition in head and neck cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy	European Journal of Cancer Care, Vol. 26, No. 4, online article, pages 1-10.	July	Article discusses the 'Heads Up' intervention programme aimed at improving nutritional status, depression and mortality in head and neck cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy. Results from a pilot trial found no significant differences between the intervention group and control group, however, subgroup analyses among patients at greater nutritional risk (cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx) suggested the intervention may improve nutritional status and significantly reduce mortality (31% of controls vs.16% intervention).
Oesophageal cancer	The Lancet, online article, pages 1-14.	22 June	This seminar paper presents the current clinical management of oesophageal cancer, including diagnostic investigations and treatment recommendations. It also provides insights into ongoing controversies and uncertainties surrounding treatments and discusses further research that is needed in oesophageal cancer.

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Literary Review, cont.



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Prospective, longitudinal assessment of quality of life in patients with cancer of the head and neck and their primary carers	British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Vol. 55, No. 6, pages 613-617.	July	A study to assess the impact of head and neck cancer (HNC) on the quality of life of patients and their carers found that patients showed a serious deterioration in psychosocial and physical domains at one month postoperatively. However, analysis of carers' data showed a highly significant deterioration in anxiety and depression which remained low after three months. These findings highlight the need for psychological support not only for patients but also for their carers during the management of HNC.
Reducing unplanned admissions: focusing on hospital admissions and emergency department visits for patients with head and neck cancer during radiation therapy	Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, Vol. 21, No. 3, pages 363-369.	June	Article discusses a project aimed at reducing unplanned hospital admissions (UHAs) and emergency department (ED) visits for patients with head and neck cancer during radiation therapy. The study found that having one or more weekly nurse-led symptom management clinic visits marginally correlated with reduction in UHAs. The authors estimate six ED visits and four UHAs were prevented, equating to a \$176,848 cost reduction.
Recurrent head and neck cancer: body image and concerns about sexuality	Cancer Nursing Practice, Vol. 16, No. 5, pages 27-33.	June	A study of patients with recurrent head and neck cancer found that many have a variety of concerns about body image, and some have concerns about sexuality. It was found that those with significant concerns about body image might experience body image disturbance and isolate themselves from their family and friends during this critical time. The authors suggest that nurses can help patients by asking open-ended questions, and creating an atmosphere that encourages them to express their concerns about these often-overlooked issues.
Living with and beyond cancer 2: the role of allied health professionals, support workers and volunteers	Nursing Times, Vol. 113, No. 8, pages 26-28.	August	Article highlights the different needs of people living with cancer and the roles and skill mix of healthcare professionals (HCPs) needed to deliver recovery package interventions. It includes a case study of a patient's recovery from treatment for mouth cancer and the roles of different HCPs involved in his care.

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Endoscopic treatment for Barrett's oesophagus dysplasia and early cancer	Gastrointestinal Nursing, Vol. 15, No. 6, pages 18-25.	July/ August	Article discusses how endoscopic treatment of early Barrett's oesophagus neoplasia is now proven to be a safe and effective alternative to oesophagectomy. It also highlights how although endoscopic resection is the cornerstone for Barrett's endotherapy, ablative techniques are complementary in achieving complete eradication of the columnar epithelium and dysplasia.
Breaking taboos wide open	Cancer Nursing Practice, Vol. 16, No. 5, pages 20-24.	June	Article features the MHK Tool - a sexual dysfunction and intimacy questionnaire - which was developed to help health professionals advise patients with head and neck cancer on how to deal with the changes and alterations in their sexual and physical relationships during and after treatment. The tool is said to act as a mechanism for patients and clinicians to have an open discussion and there are plans to develop it into an app so that it can be rolled out further.
Multimedia information intervention and its benefits in partners of the head and neck cancer patients	European Journal of Cancer Care, Vol. 26, No. 4, online article, pages 1-10.	July	A study to evaluate the impact of a multimedia, tailored information tool on the psychosocial outcomes of the partners of patients with head and neck cancer showed those receiving the intervention had lower levels of anxiety and depression and higher levels of satisfaction with information provision when compared with the control group participants who received information in an ad hoc manner.
Towards a smoke free generation	Nursing Standard, Vol. 31, No. 51, page 15.	16 August	Article discusses the new tobacco control plan launched by the Department of Health aimed at creating a smoke-free generation where the prevalence of smoking would be 5% or less. Under the plan, nurses will be trained to help patients quit smoking, to promote cessation at every opportunity and to act as role models for a 'completely smoke-free NHS estate' by 2020.
Pioneering a brighter future with disfigurement	Cancer Nursing Practice, Vol. 16, No. 6, page 12.	July	Article discusses 'Changing Faces Practitioners' who support patients living with disfigurement and altered appearance, often caused by cancer. They help individuals who are vulnerable to low self-esteem, depression and social isolation because of their loss of self-image and identity.

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References: 1. Innocenti M *et al.* *J Pain Symptom Manage* 2002; 24(5): 456-457. 2. McLean M. Poster presented at the British Association of Head and Neck Oncology Nurses National Study Day on Sharing Good Practice in Head and Neck Cancer Nursing, 12 June 2009. 3. Gibson *et al.* Presented at SIOP 2010. 4. Data on file: Patient online feedback. Correct as of August 2015.