

Improving safety-related knowledge, attitude and practices of nurses handling cytotoxic anticancer drug: pharmacists' experience in a general hospital, Malaysia.

[Keat CH](#), [Sooaid NS](#), [Yun CY](#), [Sriraman M](#).

[Asian Pac J Cancer Prev](#). 2013;14(1):69-73.

Source

Department of Pharmacy, Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, Alor Setar, Kedah, Malaysia.
huankeat123@yahoo.com

Abstract

BACKGROUND:

An increasing trend of cytotoxic drug use, mainly in cancer treatment, has increased the occupational exposure among the nurses. This study aimed to assess the change of nurses' safety-related knowledge as well as attitude levels and subsequently to assess the change of cytotoxic drug handling practices in wards after a series of pharmacist-based interventions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This prospective interventional study with a before and after design requested a single group of 96 nurses in 15 wards actively providing chemotherapy to answer a self-administered questionnaire. A performance checklist was then used to determine the compliance of all these wards with the recommended safety measures. The first and second assessments took 2 months respectively with a 9-month intervention period. Pharmacist-based interventions included a series of technical, educational and administrative support measures consisting of the initiation of closed-system cytotoxic drug reconstitution (CDR) services, courses, training workshops and guideline updates.

RESULTS:

The mean age of nurses was 32.2 ± 6.19 years. Most of them were female (93.8%) and married (72.9%). The mean knowledge score of nurses was significantly increased from 45.5 ± 10.52 to 73.4 ± 8.88 out of 100 ($p < 0.001$) at the end of the second assessment. Overall, the mean practice score among the wards was improved from 7.6 ± 5.51 to 15.3 ± 2.55 out of 20 ($p < 0.001$).

CONCLUSIONS:

The pharmacist-based interventions improved the knowledge, attitude and safe practices of nurses in cytotoxic drug handling. Further assessment may help to confirm the sustainability of the improved practices.

PMID: 23534806 [PubMed - in process]