

Physical Preventive Strategies Related to Children with Leukemia from Mothers' Perspective in Al.Basrah Province

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Abstract

Objectives: To assess mother's preventive strategies concerning physical complication for children with leukemia. A cross-sectional descriptive study consisting of (150) mothers were interviewed at Basrah specialist hospital for children in Basrah Province in a period from 3 February to 21 March 2019. Findings of the study revealed that the highest percent of studied mothers 73(48.7%) had high level related to physical preventive strategies and 74(49.3%) had moderate level related to chemotherapy physical preventive strategies. systematic application a protocol of home care for children having leukemia to help mothers to provide appropriate home care and reduce the incidence of physical complication in children undergoing chemotherapy.

Keywords: Mothers, physical, Preventive, Strategies, Leukemia.

Introduction

Leukemia is a rapidly progressive abnormal white blood "cells" formation that can result in severe scientific consequences such as life-threatening distress with infection and bleeding ¹. Pediatric leukemia is one of the deadly malignancies with unusual white blood cells shape and stem cells turn into lymphoblast ("leukemia cells"), which lead to body reaction present by way of lowering the quantity of "red blood cells" and platelets ². "Cancer is the second most common cause of death among children aged" between 0 and 14 years old, after accidents. Blood cancer is "one of the most common cancers among children", accounting for about one-third of all cancers in children. It is diagnosed about "3,800" children annually in the United States (United States). Small but steady annual increase between 1975 and 2012, the incidence rate of leukemia in childhood in the United States led to a rise in total by 55% in the annual number of cases during the past three and a half decades ³. As long as treatment and management of "childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)" have been advanced, Is transferred from being "life threatening disease to chronic disease." In addition, it leads to the transfer child care from the hospital to the home, which imposes a change in family roles and interest in organizing social activities and work

commitments and all life features. This thorough change in the family life and the fear of losing the ill child has a great effect on the caregiver's health related quality of life ^{4, 5}. Mentioned that even today, family caregivers are perceived as a major resource for the profit of the child patient, when always present and participating in their treatment in the hospital. Therefore, "Professionals need to help family members acquire skills"; caregivers for "leukemia" children need information, abilities and judgment to take care of their patients, who reduce the burden on them. The capability of family caregiver to deliver excellence care and donate to the administration of prolonged illnesses is a vital source of health care. Health care providers must be reassuring of family caregivers and help them gain awareness and skills in order to maximize the quality of care. Providers need to help family caregivers develop and solve problems, organizational skills and communication skills ^{6, 7} has confirmed that leukemia requires long-term treatment with unexpected results, and the lack of caregivers of knowledge in providing care for leukemia patients in children with chemo therapy side effects with financial problems, which are issues in many Mainly causing stress and anxiety to patients and their families. Cancer is many times seen as a misfortune event, which is probable to attract additional attention and care from family members which considered A major duties

delivered by the nurses with unlimited such as personal hygiene of the patient, observation changes of patient situations, maintenance an eye “on“ the advancement of treatments such as iv drips, and providing foods ⁸.

Methodology

A cross-sectional descriptive study carried out between the periods of (30 July 2018 to 10 July 2019) in Al.Basrah province. A “non Probability purposive sample of (150)” mothers who have children under eighteen years was selected in “oncology” & hematology clinic and “leukemia” ward at the “Basrah” specialist hospital for children was selected as 10% of the “total” population of “leukemic” children under eighteen years to the main specialist hospital for children in the province after obtaining legal permission from sectors and ethical approval from the sample of study to participate in research. A data was collected through the used questionnaire, which is constructed and developed after a comprehensive review of related literature by the researchers, itis consists of three parts: Part-I the socio-demographical characteristics which comprise of three sections, part-II preventive strategies related to physical complications of leukemia which involves of (22) items and part-III Preventive strategies related to chemotherapy physical complications” which comprise of (25) items. The responses for these items are rated and scored on 3-level type Likert scale as; yes=3, uncertain=2 and no=1. Each mother needs to approximately (25-35) minutes for the answer on the items of the questionnaire. Data were analyzed through using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS, version 24) performed with descriptive and inferential statistical data analysis approach.

Results

The uppermost proportion of children estimating as 92 (61.3%) are from early childhood class. Concerning their genders, it shows that 88 (58.7%) were male, while 52 (34.7%) were “4th” and above order among their families, besides, no other children affected with leukemia in the family as estimating in 150 (100%). That the highest percent of sample 49 (32.7%) aged (40-46) years old; 48 (32%) have a primary level of education; logically 136 (90.7%) are unemployed; 89 (59.3%) living in nuclear family type; as regards to economic status, approximating as 93 (62%) in satisfaction with some extend; majority of the population is living in urban estimating as 109 (72.7%). The figure (1) indicates that

the highest percent of study, mothers 73 (48.7%) had high level, while 65(43.3%) of them had moderate level and 12(8%) had low levels.

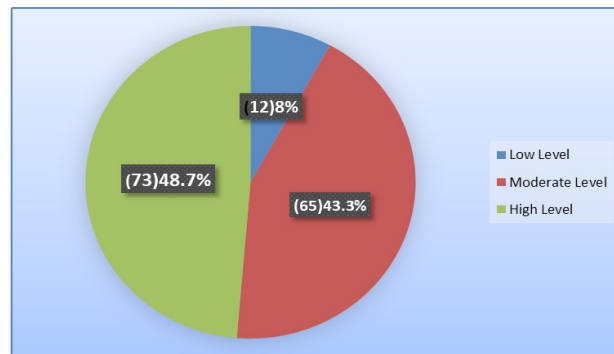


Figure (1). Preventive Strategies Related to Physical Complications of Leukemia

The figure (2) directly below indicated that the highest percentage of mothers involved in the current study had moderate level estimating as 74 (49.3%), while 67 (44.7%) of them had a high level and 9 (6%) had low levels.

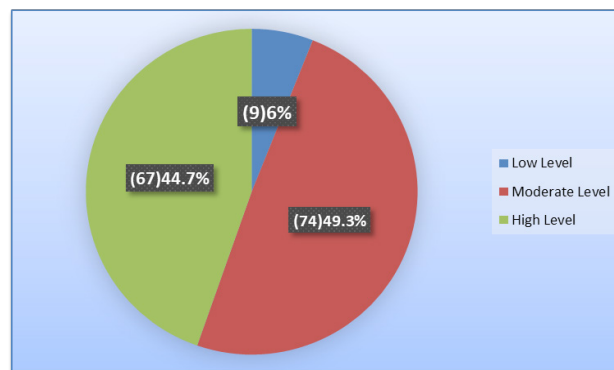


Figure (2) Preventive strategies related to chemotherapy physical complications

Discussion

The uppermost of the studied children within the age groups (2-7 years) who considered as the earliest stage of childhood. More than one-half of those kids were male; with relation to the kid order, less than 0.5 were forth and higher than order within the family, besides, the bulk of those participants don’t have any alternative kids with the malignant neoplastic disease within the family. A study provided by ⁴ who carried out as a cross-sectional study involved parent of (299) children in Malaysia; targeting to assess the correlation between coping strategies and the health-related parental quality of life, who had kids suffering from “acute lymphoblastic leukemia”, reported that less than half

“145” (49.5%) of the studied population was in the age group (6-12 years). While a retrospective study directed by ⁹ about “Patterns of childhood cancer incidence in Saudi Arabia (1999- 2008)”, resulting in all cases under the age of 15 years and both genders. They found that elevated percent (43.1%) of kids studied were in the age group (0-4) years. According to the researcher opinion, based on the results of the study underhand which supported by various studies, reflect the risky age within the early and middle childhood who exposed to many influences that reassure the exposure to cancer including leukemia. While, in another study of (56) “children hospitalized in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit in Athens” conducted by ¹⁰ around “assessment of quality of life of children and adolescents with cancer during their treatment”, findings indicated that 32(57.1%) of the studied subjects’ were male. Genetic differences in immune function or behavioral related factors might be responsible for such a difference between girls and boys ¹¹. In a cross-sectional study described by ¹² which recruiting all children on chemotherapy “attending the pediatric oncology service Zagazig University Hospitals and Tanta Cancer Center, Egypt”. The study aimed to “assess the self-esteem of pediatric patients on chemotherapy for acute lymphoblastic leukemia and the psychological status of their parents”. The results of the study show that about half (52.0%) of children were second in order. The feedback of the existing study showed that less than 0.5% of the intentional mothers (150) was the in age groups (40-46) years, about an educational level less than half were from primary education, with the majority of them were unemployed. More than half percent of the sample, their type of family was unclear. Also, the analysis of the same table revealed that more than sixty percent of mothers, their economic status was satisfied to some extent, more than seventy percent were living in urban as shown in Table (2c) A cross-sectional study support the result of the current study, which conducted by ¹³ in selected hospitals affiliated with the universities of medical sciences in Tehran, included all mothers of (200) children aging 1–15 years with leukemia who had experienced the recurrence of the disease at least one time and who visited blood clinics. The result indicates that “124” (62%) of mother’s age was (30-39) years, this means that the present study had a sample from early middle parenthood who take youngsters with cancer of the blood, additionally reflects that mothers of this age are mature enough to require responsibility for providing take care of their kids. In a quantitative non-

experimental descriptive study done by ¹⁴ “in selected cancer institute, Adyar, Chennai, India on (40) mothers of leukemic children about the knowledge of leukemia, the stress and coping strategies of mothers with leukemic children undergoing treatment”. This study found approximately half, 47.5% of the mothers were illiterate and 22.5% have a primary school education. According to investigator outlook, level of education associated with Iraqi society ladies tradition shaped that the studied sample was from primary education, this result are often true in Iraq wherever most females might solely have the chance to achieve primary education, additionally level of education was a tributary issue that helps the mothers to scan and perceive complication bar for his or her kid with leucaemia, use health data and build them ready to specific whether or not they yes, uncertain and no. A quasi-experimental study design conducted by ¹⁵ on (60) parents at daycare and outpatient “clinic in pediatric hospital of Ain Shams University” aiming to detect “the effect of a psycho-educational training program for Parent’s having children with leukemia on their experience and psychological well being”. The study revealed that 91.7% of the population included in the study were mothers and 50% of them were unemployed, with almost of participants 44 (73.3%) were living in urban. This outcome appears to be the same as the current results as the population included with common graduated from primary level 48 (32%), and logically without employment who, constituting 136 (90.7%), besides, 109 (72.7%) living in urban. Moreover, another study accompanied by ¹⁶ about “Types and Influence of Social Support on School Engagement of Young Survivors of Leukemia in the province of Quebec (Canada)”. They found that the high percent 41 (77%) of the study sample, family structure was consist of “two” parents. While, another study is provided by ¹² who carried out a cross-sectional study involved parents of (178) children “attending the pediatric oncology service Zagazig University Hospitals and Tanta Cancer Center, Egypt” in the direction of “psychological impact of chemotherapy for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia in patients and their parents”, who reported that approximately half 107 (59%) of studied parents were living in rural areas According to the researcher’s point of view, it can be explained in a way that people prefer to be within the areas where services are widely distributed primarily in urban areas and are easily accessible. A cross-sectional study conducted by ⁴ among (299) parents of kids with “Acute lymphoblastic leukemia” in Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur. They

found that high percent, 206 (70.3%) Of children were diagnosed as early within the first six months of age. Finally, according to the researcher opinion, this means that more common incidence in children less than one year, whether the first or second half. The result of present study demonstrations that less than half of the study, mothers 73 (48.7%) had a high level around preventive strategies related to physical complications of leukemia as shown in Figure (1). According to the researcher opinion, through the meeting with the sample, the researcher found that mothers are anxious to learn the issues or behaviors necessary to avoid the physical complications of their children with leukemia. The result of the existing study signifies that less than half of the studied mothers 74 (49.3%) had adequate levels around preventive strategies related to chemotherapy physical complications as shown in Figure (2). According to the researcher opinion, the observed physical look deteriorated over time. This result could be due to the side effects of therapy. However, additional research is wanted to know how to assist patients overcome this difficulty, so that they do not become active.

Conclusion

The study concluded that mothers' preventive strategies related to physical, complication of leukemia is perceived within a high level of knowledge, while, the moderate level towards preventive strategies related to chemotherapy physical complications.

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Conflict of Interest: None to declare.

Ethical Clearance: All experimental protocols were approved under the Faculty of Nursing, University of Babylon, Iraq and all experiments were carried out in accordance with approved guidelines.

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