Objective: In pediatric hematology/oncology patients, infections are the main cause of prolonged hospital stay, increased mortality and high cost following relapse or progression. In this patient group, infections caused by multidrug resistant bacteria are common and affect morbidity and mortality rates. We aimed to determine the frequency and antibiotic susceptibility of bacteria isolated from blood cultures of the patients with malignant and non-malignant diseases in our hospital over a ten-year period. **Methodology:** patients admitted to the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Service between January 2011- June 2021 were evaluated. The most common disease was acute lymphoblastic leukemia (27%). The first isolated bacteria of same species for each patient were included, contaminated cultures were not included. Blood cultures incubated in the Bactec FX automated blood culture system for five days. Bacteria were identified by conventional methods or automated systems. Antibiotic susceptibility tests were performed by disc diffusion or gradient test and were evaluated according to guidelines. **Results:** A total of 4631 blood culture samples from 296 patients were analyzed. Positive signal was seen in 620 samples. Blood culture posivity was 13.4%. Total 298 blood culture samples were evaluated. Gram positive bacteria rate were 59% and 41% gram negative. The most frequently (58.7%) isolated gram positive bacteria were methicillin-resistant coagulase negative *staphylococci* and gram negative bacteria were *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (28,5%). The rate of bacteria producing extended spectrum beta lactamase (ESBL) was detected as 74% for *Escherichia coli* and 69% for *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. **Conclusion:** It is important for each center to determine its own causative agents and their resistance patterns in bloodstream infections. Gram positive bacteria were found dominantly in our study. The high ESBL rate in E.coli and K.pneumoniae isolates is remarkable. Early detection of the causative agents in bloodstream infections of the pediatric hematology/oncology patients and initiation of prompt treatment are important to reduce mortality.

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NURSING

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR CANCER PATIENTS

OP 27

INFLUENCE OF CANCER NEWS ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF PATIENT'S FAMILIES: AN OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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Objective: Malignant disease diagnosis brings great psychological suffering to the patient, and the sickness might have catastrophic ramifications for the relatives. The Objective of this study is to assess influence of cancer news on quality of life of patient's families. **Methodology:** This study was prospective cohort study conducted at the oncology department of a tertiary care Hospital, Pakistan for the duration of one year. The quality of life was assessed as per pre-defined questionnaire both from two first degree relatives at each clinical visit during treatment every week and every month for six months after completion of treatment. Data analysis was done by employing SPSS version 21. **Results:** 180 family members were included. QOL of family members was 1.54±0.57 (p=0.001). Anxiety/depression score of the family members was 1.67±0.64 while in control group it was 1.50±0.64 (p=0.031). The EQ VAS score in control group was 66.5±16.7 whereas in caregivers group, it was 71.3±18.8 (P=0.023). Stress was observed in 98 (54.44%) participants in caregivers group. Moderate-severe depression was observed in 45(25%) vs 21(11.67%) participants in caregivers vs control group, respectively (p=0.041) **Conclusion:** Our findings reveal that family caregivers of cancer patients face mental health issues and a decline in health-related quality of life. To reduce the effect of caring on the mental health and health related quality of life of family caregivers in Pakistan, culturally suitable caregiver support programs are required.

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