



PALLIATIVE NURSING CARE FOR THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT: AN INTEGRATING REVIEW

Cuidados paliativos de enfermagem ao paciente pediátrico: uma revisão integrativa

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Abstract: To identify the care of the nurse to the child with cancer in palliative care. A descriptive study with the method of integrative literature review, carrying out an online search with data collection in the Virtual Health Library - VHL: Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences - Lilacs, and International Literature in Health Sciences - Medline in the period from 2012 to 2018. Of the 20 studies identified, 10 were included in this review according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The main results point out that the nursing professional must have skills and managerial assistance to provide palliative care in the pediatric oncology sector, seeking strategies that range from communication with the child and family to the reduction of risks that generate infection and other damages, so the infant's needs. It is concluded that the palliative care provided by the nurse to the child with cancer contributes to the greater comfort in relation to its clinical state and thus maximizes the well-being and minimizes the suffering of the patient and relatives.

Keywords: Palliative care; Oncology; Pediatrics; Pediatric nursing.

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Resumo: Identificar o cuidado do enfermeiro à criança com câncer em cuidados paliativos. Estudo de caráter descritivo com método da revisão integrativa da literatura, efetuando uma busca online com levantamento de dados na Biblioteca Virtual de Saúde – BVS: Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde – Lilacs, e Literatura Internacional em Ciências da Saúde – *Medline* no período de 2012 a 2018. Dos 20 estudos identificados, 10 foram incluídos nesta revisão conforme os critérios de inclusão e exclusão. Os principais resultados apontam que o profissional de enfermagem deve ter competências gerencial e assistencial para prestar o cuidado paliativo no setor oncológico pediátrico, buscando estratégias que vão desde a comunicação com a criança e familiares até a diminuição de riscos que gerem infecção e outros danos, atendendo assim a necessidade do infante. Conclui-se que os cuidados paliativos prestados pelo enfermeiro à criança com câncer contribui para o maior conforto em relação ao seu estado clínico e assim maximiza o bem-estar e minimiza o sofrimento do paciente e familiares.

Palavras-chaves: Cuidados paliativos; Oncologia; Pediatria; Enfermagem pediátrica.

INTRODUCTION

The process of illness in human life generates negative experiences by which only fits one search: the cure. In relation to the pediatric oncology, this suffering generates a complicated experience for the child and therefore, brings stress and anxiety during hospitalization¹.

From a clinical point of view, the cancer in children is observed by its histological type and its frequency affecting then, the sustentation tissues and cells of the hematopoietic system causing the tumors grow aggressive and successively on the patient's body².

Based on this understanding, it becomes essential to adopt a practice whose assistance is focused on quality of life, decrease of suffering, pain control, stress reduction, and the anguish that the reality of the disease cause in pediatric patients. Therefore, the palliative cares are essential to the pursuit of this practice, because the professional acquires a look centered on the clinical and cautious conditions of the patient in the humanized care³.

The pediatric palliative care is defined as a program of care for the child with limited life due to a currently incurable disease that seeks to control the symptoms of pathology and integrate the spiritual support and psychological support for families before the moment of decision-making and should be initiated after diagnosis of the disease and its treatment⁴.

Within the multiprofessional team, the nursing work has-become comprehensive in palliative care, because these professionals perform care with a humanistic vision, thus creating a bond with the small patient so that he or she can develop interventions, and many times their effectiveness is

highly accepted in the cancer treatment¹.

The nurse in addition to experiencing the reality of the oncologic patient during his or her moment of pediatric hospitalization, he or she is responsible for giving comfort and rescue the esteem of the small infant, as well as include the family in the whole process of care, minimizing traumatic effects and proportionate humanization of care⁵.

The objective of this study was to describe the nursing palliative care in oncology pediatric patients.

METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive using the method of integrative review of literature, resource that guides a methodology enabling the synthesis of the state of knowledge of a particular subject matter and identifying gaps which exist for suggestions of new studies and perspectives of the topic studied. Therefore, it is composed by the following steps: elaboration of the guiding question; sampling in the literature; critical analysis of the studies included; discussion of results and presentation of the review of knowledge⁶.

To guide this review, first, the following question was elaborated : What are the nursing palliative cares provided to pediatric oncology patients?

For the identification of publications that have structured the integrative review of this study, an online search was performed with survey data in the Virtual Health Library - VHL: Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences - Lilacs, and International Literature in Health Sciences – *Medline* in the period from 2012 to 2018. Palliative

care; Nursing; Oncology and pediatrics.

20 articles related to the theme were found, being selected 10 publications that met the inclusion criteria for this study: studies published in the modality of scientific article, available in its entirety, published in Portuguese in the period from 2012 to 2018. This study showed the need for approval by the Committee for Ethics in Research, considering that manipulates data of free access,

not dealing therefore with documents that require ethical confidentiality .

LITERATURE REVIEW

TABLE 1 presents the selected articles, according to the authors, title, type of study, objectives and conclusion.

Table 1 - Characteristics of the articles selected according to authors, title, type of study and year of publication, 2012-2018.

#	Year	Title	Type of study	Objective	Conclusion
1	2017	Challenges to the integrality of care in Palliative Care In Oncological Pediatrics, in the National Cancer Institute José Alencar Gomes da Silva.	Qualitative Research	Identify and reflect on the challenges listed by the multiprofessional team of Oncological Pediatrics of INCA, which interfere with the integrality of care in palliative care.	The comprehensiveness in palliative care of INCA constitutes a major challenge in consequence of the dichotomy between curative and palliative care making the dehospitalization difficult; the organization of the improper service routine to communication and exchange of knowledge among the multiprofessional teams; the physical structure and insufficient human resources, including the lack of training for this modality of assistance; in addition to the fragmentation of the network of health services.
2	2013	Nursing care to children with cancer: an integrative review of the literature.	Descriptive bibliographic study, using the integrative literature review method.	Review the scientific production of nursing care to children with cancer.	The study highlights the need for professional and psychological training to professionals who work in care delivery to this clientele and valuation of the subjective aspects in care.

Continuation of Table 1

3	2015	Palliative care in pediatric oncology: Perceptions, knowledge and practices in the perspective of the multiprofessional team.	Qualitative, exploratory and descriptive research.	Know the perceptions, knowledge and practices of the multiprofessional team in attention to children in palliative care in pediatric oncology.	The themes revealed that the team suffers, also, with the child's death and, in a way similar to the family, moves toward the construction of coping mechanisms for the elaboration of the mourning. Paradoxically, the team shares knowledge to delineate the foundations of natural therapeutic project to be implemented and enters the family in this process so that they can assume the role of care for the child.
4	2013	Unveiling the humanized care: perceptions of Nurses in pediatric oncology.	Exploratory-descriptive study, with qualitative approach.	Unveiling the elements of the humanized care present in the encounter among nurse, family and child with cancer identifying the perception of nurses regarding the humanization of assistance and verifying in what situations the nurse realizes that the humanization is anchored to care.	The data allowed reflexions about possibilities for construction of interpersonal humanistic process into the environment of care in pediatric oncology and of advances and limitations regarding the applicability of this framework in practice.
5	2012	The nurse and care for the child with cancer without Possibility of cure.	Qualitative Research	Analyze comprehensively the nurse's care to the hospitalized child carrier of oncological disease out of the current possibility of cure.	From these actions the caring for the family present there is guided, with the aim of supporting them, providing attitudes of love, affection and respect.

Of the total (100%), eight were field research, being (70%) with a qualitative approach,

two (20%) were integrative review of literature and one (10%) was narrative review of the literature.

These studies were published in 2017 (three or 30%), 2013 (3 or 30%), 2015 (2 or 20%), 2012 (or 10%) and 2018 (one or 10%).

The child cancer needs treatments that correspond to long periods of time that creates anguish and fear to small patients and, especially the suffering of professionals in relation to exhaustion of healing, because in addition to being able to act before the child's pain, is faced with the pain of the family. However, the nursing staff has an essential role in this process, considering that these are professionals who promote a humanized care that contributes to minimizing the factors resulting from the pathology⁷.

The palliative care in pediatric oncology patients is performed with the aim of identifying complications during the treatment of the pathology, as well as to provide relief to the symptoms, such as difficulty feeding and handling, pain and respiratory discomfort. Therefore, the nurse obtains a humanistic vision to minimize the suffering of these patients, helping them in the process of dying with dignity and providing maximum comfort to the patient⁸.

Based on this assumption, the nurse then, has a prominent role in the multiprofessional team, because he or she acts in the development of tasks and actions for palliative care, since their managerial competence of care until the direct care to the patient, always seeking to meet the needs of the pediatric patient. To do so, it is essential the performance of the multiprofessional team during the pediatric oncology treatment in a way that enables discovering a care focused on healing the small infant⁹.

From this perspective, it stands out as a tool of palliative care, the affective communication, effective method for discovering the humanized care and integral, because it provides the possibility to nurses to meet the needs of the patient subsidizing relationship between the patient and the nurse at the

time of hospitalization and characterized also as a therapeutic measure in the context of health and disease¹⁰.

Viero *et al.*,¹¹ report that it is not always easy to work in "Pediatrics", whereas, oncology nurses can present difficulties in day-to-day due to the coexistence of suffering, pain and death of the sick child in addition to affecting his or her psychological and with it they find ways to get out of this reality, using means of vacation, a medical certificate to be able to heal from the suffering of others.

Therefore, the nurse, trained in taking care of the oncologic child using or not palliative care, assigns various skills to cope with the child's illness and in the case of hospitalization, namely: use communication to improve the relationship, reduce the fear and anxiety, give support to families, encourage the expression of feelings, help in adaptation in that environment considered disturbing in the child's perception, reduce damages, such as risk of infection, assessing the nutritional status among other actions¹¹.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The palliative care provided by nurses to children with cancer involves since managerial assistencial strategies with a single focus to reach an admission that in addition to performing procedures to meet the needs of the patient in terminal stage, may bring a greater comfort in relation to their clinical condition and thus maximize the welfare and minimize the suffering of the patient.

At the end of this study, it is suggested that further research should be developed addressing the issue, both as regards the performance of the nurse, as compared to other health care professionals who work in pediatric oncology.

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