




HUMANIZED NURSING CARE FOR CANCER PATIENTS: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

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Adriana da Silva Abreu, Aline Guedes de Souza, Beatriz Fernandes da Silva, Kiria Vaz da Silva Hamerski, Laryssa Helena Mateus, Marcos Venicio Pereira Nunes, Miryan Keity Lopes de Souza, Nayane Coelho Gomes Nunes, Ronise das Mercês Cruz Pereira and Thaís Tavares de Oliveira

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: To verify how the nursing team implements humanized care in the care of cancer patients. This analysis is essential to ensure that the emotional and physical needs of patients are met in a comprehensive way. **METHOD:** integrative review, in which the steps described by Cooper were followed, through the SciELO, LILACS and BDENF databases, using the descriptors of humanization of care, oncology and nursing. The inclusion criteria were articles available in full and free of charge, in Portuguese, published between 2020 and 2023. The data were collected between January and February 2023 and analyzed according to the content analysis technique, allowing the discussion of its results. **RESULTS:** the factors that promote humanized nursing care are: welcoming; valuing the patient and paying attention to global needs; establishment of good relationships, good communication, active listening and creation of bonds with the patient and his family; respect for the individuality, autonomy and particularities of the patient; Needs Fundamental aspects include: spirituality and faith; qualification of professionals; periodic team meetings; safeguarding patients' rights; promotion of recreational activities; and improvement of infrastructure in the hospital environment. Such elements are essential for creating a more humane and welcoming environment in health. **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The factors that favor humanized nursing care are intrinsically linked to the attitudes and behaviors of nursing professionals who care for patients, always guided by the National Policy for Humanization of Health. These guidelines not only shape practice but also promote a more ethical and welcoming care environment.

Keywords: Humanization of Care. Oncology. Nursing.

INTRODUCTION

Humanization, in its literal sense, refers to the act of making something more human, providing it with conditions of humanity. It is, essentially, a process that involves being benevolent, affable, compassionate, and charitable.

The concept of humanization, according to Freitas and Ferreira, is intrinsically linked to the right to health and to the improvement of care in health services. This approach aims to ensure the quality of care, moving away from the principles of charity and philanthropy, and recognizing the autonomy of individuals and their fundamental role in the context of citizenship. This perspective values the protagonism of the subjects, promoting a more dignified and respectful approach to health practices.

The National Humanization Policy (NHP) was established by the Ministry of Health in 2003, with the objective of integrating the principles of the Unified Health System (SUS) into the routine of health services. Its fundamentals include transversality; the inseparability between care and management; and the protagonism, co-responsibility and autonomy of individuals and collectives. The PNH is based on guidelines that emphasize welcoming, participatory management and co-participation, the environment, the expanded and shared clinic, as well as the valorization of the worker and the defense of the rights of users.

In this context, Theobald et al. 4 emphasize that the fundamentals of humanized care include the creation of an open dialogue, allowing patients to have full access to information about their condition, treatment, and prognosis.

In addition, it is essential to respect the autonomy of the individual. According to Brito and Carvalho, in the various health services, particularly in oncology and palliative care units, the imperative need for a humanized practice is evident.

This becomes especially crucial considering the prolonged periods of hospitalization of patients, as well as the psychological fragility that affects both users and their families. Individuals with malignant neoplasms require specialized assistance, as they deal not only with the complexity of the pathology itself, but also with the stigma that often accompanies the condition.

They live with an uncertain prognosis, immersed in the fear of death, anxiety and depression, without leaving aside the indomitable will to live.

The nursing team plays a fundamental role in patient care, and it is imperative to consider the factors that can mitigate suffering and promote the effectiveness of genuinely humanized care. This approach not only enriches the patient experience but also strengthens professional practice.

It is essential that care goes beyond the simple technique, integrating the formation of bonds, friendship, empathy and trust. In this way, we provide the patient with a more welcoming and meaningful experience. The sense of belonging to the process is amplified by observing the entire human dimension.

In this context, the justification for conducting this research is intrinsically linked to the significant increase in patients diagnosed with neoplasms, both in Brazil and globally. This scenario represents a crucial challenge in the health area, especially with regard to chronic non-communicable diseases.

In view of this, it is essential to qualify and humanize nursing care for cancer patients. It is also hoped that the results can contribute to the understanding of the specificities of care for cancer patients, as well as to the humanization of the nursing care offered to these individuals. It is critical that this understanding promotes better practices in care and attention to the human needs of patients.

From this perspective, nursing must be properly prepared and qualified to provide the humanized care that is essential for cancer patients. In view of this, the present study aims to investigate how the nursing team promotes this humanized care for cancer patients.

METHODOLOGY

This work consists of an integrative review of the literature, structured according to the five stages outlined by Cooper. These steps include: the formulation of the problem, data collection, data evaluation, data analysis and interpretation, and presentation of the results.

In this context, the present integrative review was guided by the following central question: how does the nursing team support the promotion of humanized care for cancer patients?

The collection of scientific articles was carried out in the following databases: Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Science and Health (LILACS) and Nursing Database (BDENF). To this end, the descriptors in Health Sciences (DECS) were used: Humanization of Care, Oncology and Nursing.

The inclusion criteria for the selection of articles were: texts in Portuguese, available in full and free of charge, published between 2020 and 2023. Duplicate articles were eliminated, as well as books, abstracts, editorials, monographs, dissertations and theses. 248 Rev. Certainly! Here's a more polished version of your text with appropriate line breaks:**Enferm.** Contemp., Salvador, 2020 October; 9(2): 246-254 doi: 10.17267/2317-

3378rec.v9i2.2737 | ISSN: 2317-3378 A total of 3,466 articles were identified, of which 1,010 were located in the Lilacs database, 2,199 in Bdenf and 257 in b. in the Scielo library.

The previous selection with the application of the established criteria generated a bank of 465 articles for use, and the subsequent choice through the observation of the title and abstract excluded 358 articles unrelated to the theme of the study and another 65 due to duplicity. After the complete reading of the remaining 42 articles, 26 were excluded because they did not answer the guiding question.

Thus, 10 articles were included for analysis in this integrative review, described below, presenting the databases consulted and the number of publications identified, as well as the number of articles selected after reading in full.

Securities:	Authors:	Periodicals/year	Methodology:	Main results:
"Nursing care for patients with colorectal cancer using colostomy bags:	de Araújo, Andrey Hudson I. Mendes,	et al. literature review." REVISA11.4 504-514 (2022):.	Explorative.	Care linked to the patient's needs.
"Nursing care for cancer patients in palliative care":	Silva, Francisca Cecília Ferreira, et al.	Nursing assistance to patients with cancer in palliative care: an integrative review." Current Nursing Journal In Derme 91.29 (2020).	Descriptive	Care linked to the patient's needs.
"Nursing diagnoses in cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy".	da Rosa Noronha, Isabela,	Revista Recien-Revista Científica de Enfermagem 11.36 153-163. (2021):	Descriptive	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs
"Nursing care in the treatment of oncological wounds in women with cancer"	Dias, Thais Pereira, et al	breast." Revista Enfermagem Atual In (2023): e023045-e023045. Dermis 97.2	Descriptive	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs
"Nursing performance in relation to cancer patients" in palliative care	de Albuquerque Maschio, Jefferson Reis.	Nursing care for cancer patients in palliative care." Brazilian Journal of Development 8.1): 4704-4727. (202	Descriptive, qualitative	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs
"Pediatric oncology: nursing care and humanization."	de Sousa Aguiar, Beatriz Carolina,	et al. Brazilian Congress of Multidisciplinary Sciences and Knowledge. No. 2. 2023.	Descriptive, qualitative	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs
"Palliative care in pediatric oncology: humanization."	MOREIRA, Julia Maria Ribeiro,	Annals of the Unifunec Scientific Initiation Forum 12.12 (2021).	Descriptive, qualitative	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs
"Humanized care in nursing care for cancer patients.	Schuttc, Juliana Aparecida, and Wesley Martins.	JRG Journal of Academic Studies 7.15 e15741-e15741. (2024).	Descriptive, qualitative	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs

"Nursing performance in relation to cancer patients in palliative care"	de Albuquerque Maschio, Jefferson Reis.	Nursing care for cancer patients in palliative care." Brazilian Journal of Development 8.1 (2022): 4704-4727.	Descriptive, qualitative	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs
"The elderly with cancer and the family."	Serra, Júlia Martins, Jaqueline Roberta Alves, and Marta Carvalho Loures.	Management & Technology Journal 2.33 (2021): 3-24.	Descriptive, qualitative	Promotion of communication, Care linked to the patient's needs

Numerous factors that promote humanized nursing care for cancer patients were identified, and for a better understanding and discussion of the results, the groups of elements that promote humanized care were found, as shown below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

When analyzing the results of the identified elements, it was observed that user embracement was highlighted as a factor directly related to humanization, as evidenced in one of the studies.

Humanization is integrated into the welcoming process, based on the construction of a comprehensive, altruistic and reliable relationship between users and health professionals.

In this sense, it is important to highlight that patients affected by diseases with no possibility of cure should receive care that prioritizes comfort, relieving symptoms and controlling pain. This makes it possible to reestablish their basic condition as human beings, according to their potentialities.

In the present context, it is essential to emphasize the importance of valuing the patient in all its dimensions (biopsychosocial-spiritual).

Meeting global needs was evidenced. Thus, it is essential to safeguard the dignity of the patient, recognizing him as an integral human being; that is, as the union of body, mind, and spirit.

It is essential to consider its weaknesses and potentialities, aiming to improve the quality of the care provided.

The creation of solid relationships and the strengthening of bonds between professionals, patients and family members were highlighted by eight studies as crucial elements for the practice of humanized nursing aimed at cancer patients.

Humanization in the context of care for cancer patients is essential, as it involves both the protagonism and the appreciation of the patient and their families. The latter play a key role as a source of emotional support, as well as being crucial in identifying side effects, as they are by the patient's side in all care scenarios.

However, it is imperative to adopt a new perspective to unveil and understand the phenomena in question. In this context, the transformations experienced by cancer patients and the demand for high-quality nursing care deserve to be highlighted.

This is not only about the technical preparation and scientific basis of the professionals, but also about valuing the experience of others and the approach to professional practice.

Thus, those who propose to understand the experiences of patients must also be able to make themselves understood. This assumption leads to the valorization of the work of the nursing team as a fundamental strategy to ensure the quality of the care provided.

The effectiveness of communication between members of the health team, patients and their families, as well as qualified listening, was addressed in six different studies.

Communication is recognized as one of the essential foundations for the implementation of the National Humanization Policy (NHP) in health services, allowing professionals to understand the needs and uniqueness of each patient.

The second pillar of humanization concerns the patient's access to information related to their diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.

CONCLUSION/FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study made it possible to highlight the relevance of promoting humanized care, in addition to evidencing the factors that favor humanized nursing care, directly related to the attitudes and behaviors of the professionals who care for patients.

Thus, the importance of the National Humanization Policy in directing and implementing best practices of humanization of care in the context of the health-disease process for users with neoplasms is reiterated.

Given the importance of the theme, it is proposed to conduct new qualitative and phenomenological studies that address the relevance of humanized nursing care and from the experiential perspective of cancer patients. This initiative aims to contribute to raising the quality of nursing and health care.

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