Interprofessional collaboration in the supportive care of dementia patients in oncology and hematology: A review

Muhammad Idham Jasmiad[1], Aslina Mohamed Yasin[1], Amira Raudhah Abdullah[2]

[1]Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, [2]Department of Medical Sciences 1, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, 71800 Bandar Baru Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Dementia is a condition characterized by a decline in cognitive abilities, including memory, thinking, behaviour, and physical functioning. The dual burden of cancer and dementia in aging populations presents significant complexities in clinical care. Patients with cognitive impairment often require individualized treatment approaches and more attention in clinical care. Interprofessional collaboration between nurses, oncologists, haematologists and allied health professionals is critical to ensure delivery of safe and effective patient care. However, the dynamics and impact of collaborative practices among healthcare professionals remain insufficiently studied in this high-risk population. **Materials and Methods:** A review was conducted by examining peer-reviewed articles published between 2014 and 2024, retrieved from databases such as PubMed, EBSCO and Scopus. The search utilized keywords including "dementia," "oncology," "haematology," "interprofessional collaboration," "nursing care" and "supportive care." Studies were included focusing on adult patients with dementia receiving cancer or haematology-related care and addressed aspects of interprofessional or interdisciplinary collaboration. The review excluded studies that are not published in English and did not pertain to clinical practice and studies that are not associated to dementia related care or elderly. The selected articles were subjected to thematic analysis to identify principal aspect, challenges and practical implications for enhancing interprofessional collaboration in the supportive care in oncology and haematology patients with dementia. **Results:** Our review identified the interprofessional collaboration in the supportive care of oncology and haematology patients with dementia. It is characterized by three key themes: (1) the value of sustained relationships between healthcare providers and patients; (2) the integration of complementary clinical and psychosocial perspectives among team members; and (3) the alignment of care around a shared goal of delivering patient-centred, support. **Conclusion:** This review underscores the critical role of interdisciplinary collaboration in managing the complex needs of dementia patients undergoing cancer or haematology treatment. Such collaboration enhances the team's ability to address issues through a shared communication framework. The integration of diverse professional perspectives supports more comprehensive care planning and allows patient and caregiver values, preferences and goals to be incorporated meaningfully into clinical decision-making. Future initiatives should prioritize interprofessional education, standardized care protocols, and collaborative decision-making frameworks tailored to the needs of these patients.

Keywords: Interprofessional collaboration, dementia, Oncology Nursing, caregiver involvement