Nursing care for the LGBT Patient

Current Perspectives in Oncology Nursing

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Objectives

- Increase nursing knowledge to provide informed care to LGBT patients.
- Practicing therapeutic relationships with your LGBT patient.
- Highlight barriers experienced by Transgender people in healthcare leading to increased cancer risks.
Therapeutic Relationship with your LGBT Patient

• Assess your own preconceived ideas and prejudices and educate yourself on the struggles of LGBT people.

• Recognize that homosexuality and gender identity are only small parts of what makes up an individual.
  – Most people are not defined by their sexual preferences. The same applies for LGBT people.
Therapeutic Relationship with your LGBT Patient

• Allow same-sex partners the same visitation granted to heterosexual spouses.

• Assist LGBT patient in designating a segregate decision maker.
  – Consult social work in creating a power of attorney.

• Ask open ended questions to allow a patient to share as much they are willing to share without feeling a sense of invasion of privacy.
Therapeutic Relationship with your LGBT Patient

All patients want and deserve excellent, respectful and dignified care.
Transgender

**Terminology:**
- Transgender is an umbrella term that refers to people who don’t identify with the gender they were assigned at birth.
- Transwoman refers to someone who was assigned male at birth and lives and/or identifies as a woman.
- Transman refers to someone who was assigned female at birth and lives and/or identifies as a man.
Transwoman
Transman
Nursing Considerations For Transgender Patients

• Create a welcoming environment.
• Do not assume sexual orientation or gender identity.
• Ask patients what name they’d like to be called and their preferred pronoun.
• Don’t out patients unnecessarily without their permission.
• Provide training to staff members on transgender health and sensitivity.
Nursing Considerations For Transgender Patients

• Cancer Screening for transgender people requires a modified approach to current guidelines.

• Transgender patients may be more hesitant to visit a physician for cancer screening for fear of revealing their transgendrism my lead to discrimination.
Nursing Considerations For Transgender Patients

• Standard cancer screening lab work can be inaccurate due to hormone replacement therapy. Eg. Testosterone and estrogen therapy.

• Be Sensitive to “gender” specific screenings. Eg. Pregnancy screening.
Nursing Considerations For Transgender Patients

• Female to Male still requires pap smears and mammograms.
  – Higher risk of ovarian cancer if on hormone replacement therapy and have not had a hysterectomy.

• Female to Male patients have
  – lower risk of breast cancer if they had an elective mastectomy.
  – Higher risk mastectomy not done.
Nursing Considerations For Transgender Patients

• Male to Female patients have a higher risk of developing breast cancer after undergoing hormone replacement therapy.

• Male to Female patients require prostate screenings after 50 if the patient has not underwent a vaginoplasty.

• Male to Female patients who have had a vaginoplasty are now at risk for developing cervical cancer due to risk of HPV exposure.
Nursing Considerations For Transgender Patients

• Many transgender people cope by smoking and drinking alcohol.
  – Increased risk for throat and lung cancer.
  – Increased risk for stomach, liver and bladder cancer.

• Non sex/gender specific cancer screenings should be performed on both Transmen and Transwomen.
  – Skin Cancer
  – Colon Cancer
Continuing Education

Moffitt HRC Healthcare Equality Training

LEADER IN LGBT HEALTHCARE EQUALITY

HEALTHCARE EQUALITY INDEX™
References


