



EXPOSURE TO ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS IN ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENTS: PRACTICE SURVEY AND INFORMATION TO THE PERSONNEL OF THREE ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENTS



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Objectives

Exposure to antineoplastic agents of pharmacy technicians has been widely studied, but fewer is know about risks of exposure and awarness of nurses, nursing auxiliaries and cleaning personnel. Study objective is to evaluate the practice and the awarness of paramedical staff concerning exposure to antineoplastic agents.

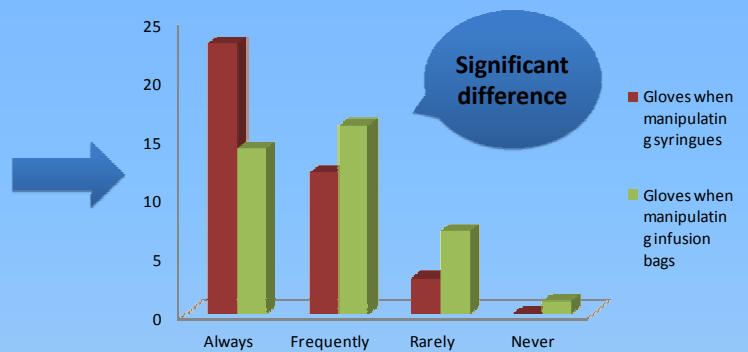
Methods

Three questionnaires were distributed to oncology nurses, nursing auxiliaries and cleaning personnel in three oncology departments, including one pediatric. Participants were asked about ten, eleven, and twelve questions concerning their practices and awarness of exposure to antineoplastic agents.

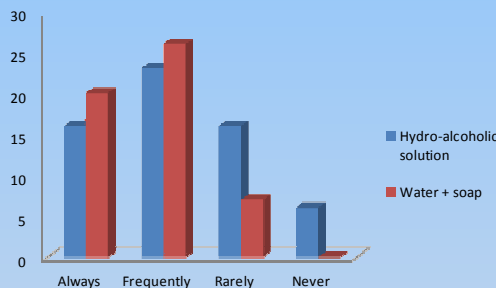
Results

Oncology nurses (n=38)

- Practice: Gloves are more often worn when manipulating syringes than when manipulating infusion bags : 60,5% vs 36,8% (p<0,05)
- Information:
 - 26.3% of them considered themselves well informed
 - 97.4% thought information could be improved
 - 81.6% suspected that antineoplastic agents have teratogenic effets
 - 10.5% thought that antineoplastic agents do not have mid or long term toxic effects



Graph : Gloves wearing during antineoplastic agents manipulation



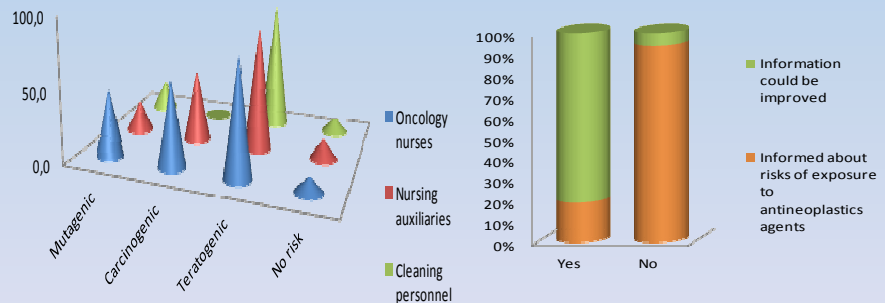
Graph : Use of hydro-alcoholic solution for hands washing

Nursing Auxiliaries (n=14)

- Practice: Gloves wearing during patients' washing or excreta elimination was more frequent than mask wearing : 64,3% vs 5,3%
- Information:
 - 28.6% of them considered themselves well informed
 - 92.9% thought information could be improved
 - 85.7% suspected that antineoplastic agents have teratogenic effets
 - 14.3% thought that antineoplastic agents do not have mid or long term toxic effects

Cleaning personnel (n=10)

- Practice:
 - 62,5% wear gloves for bed making
 - 80,0% wear gloves for sanitation cleaning
- Information:
 - 100% of them considered themselves well informed
 - 90.0% suspected that antineoplastic agents have teratogenic effets
 - 10.0% thought that antineoplastic agents do not have mid or long term toxic effects



Graphs : Information and need of information about the risks

Disussion and Conclusion

Substantial heterogeneity in the practices and the knowledge about antineoplastic drugs has been shown. Lack of information suggested in some fields the necessity to inform the nursing and cleaning personnel in the oncology departments and an intervention was made in the three departments to provide the required information. This work is part of a global approach to reduce the professional practices risks.

Acknowledgements

To all the agents who have participated in this work by accepting answer the questionnaire