

## **Summary**

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death from disease in children aged 0-16 years and the second cause of death from all causes exceeded only by road accidents, the diagnosis and treatment of childhood cancers takes time, and there are both short-term and long-term side effects. However, thanks to medical advances, where more and more children with cancer are finishing successful treatment, leaving hospitals, and growing up just like everybody else. Today, up to 75% of all children with cancer can be cure. There is a lack in mothers' knowledge towards care of their children undergoing chemotherapy; therefore, the competent mothers are highly required to provide better care for their children and save them from further complications. Consequently need for in-service education programs for mothers to update their knowledge according to the rapid advancement of knowledge.

## **Aim of the study**

This study aimed to assess mothers' knowledge and attitude regarding care of their children undergoing chemotherapy.

## **Research question**

Is there a relationship between mothers' characteristics and their knowledge about care of their children undergoing chemotherapy?

## **Subjects and methods**

### **Research setting:**

The study will be carried out at the pediatric oncology unit in specialized pediatric hospital in Benha city which is the only established known place in Kalubia that provide care to such children.

**Subjects:**

The study involved (100) children undergoing chemotherapy and their accompanying mothers over 6 months period regardless their characteristics.

**Tools of data collection:****1- Questionnaire by Interviewing to gather data as the following:**

**Part I:** General characteristics of the study subjects.

**Part II:** to assess the mother's knowledge regarding care of their children undergoing chemotherapy.

**2- Likert type - rating scale:** to assess the mother's attitude toward care of their children undergoing chemotherapy.

**Field work**

Data collection was carried out over 6 month's period. The purpose of the study and its expected outcomes, explained by the researcher to all mothers included in the study. The average time needed for the completion of each interview was between 15 – 30 minutes, each mother was inform that, all gathered data will be used only for research purpose and it will be confidential, also they are allowed to withdraw from the study whenever they want. All lacked information substituted by the researcher upon completion of data collection tools of the study.

**Results:**

- The results of the study showed that more than half of the children (61%) were in age group of 1 :> 4 years.
- In relation to sex of children it found that, (53%) were males and the rest were females.

- As regards to level of education it found that, (70%) of children were before primary education.
- Regarding family history of cancer, it found that, more than half of children (63%) reported no family history of cancer.
- Regarding mothers age the study revealed that, (45%) of mothers age ranged between 25-30 years.
  - In relation to mothers level of education, it found that, more than half (54%) of them were secondary and university education, where mothers received high level of education reported good knowledge in comparison with illiterate and other low level of education.
- In relation to occupation of mothers it was found that, more than three quarters (89%) were house wives.
- The present study showed that, more than three quarters (77%) of mothers and their children lived in rural residence.
- As regards mothers' livings at independent house was (63%) of studied mothers they having good knowledge, while those having poor knowledge were living at shared house.
  - As observed from study that, more than one third of mothers (37%) reported positive attitude toward care of their children undergoing chemotherapy.

### **The most important recommendations are:**

- Continuous health education and counseling based upon need assessment of mothers to improve their knowledge regarding care of their children undergoing chemotherapy, using different teaching methodology.
- Mothers should be informed about the available support services and referral for care of their children.

- Teach the mother the principle of care of problems emerged as a result of their children cancer and its related therapy.
- National strategies are highly required to support children suffering from cancer and their caregivers
- Encourage cooperation between health, medical, social and governmental sectors to improve the health and environmental condition of those children.
- Increase public awareness through broadmedia about childhood cancer prevention, early detection and management.
- Long- term follow- up of impact cancer on the child's self-competence.