Summary

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Hepatitis C virus (HCV) primarily attack the liver, the chronic hepatitis C infection is now recognized as an important and global health care problem that affects about 170 million individual world wide. Chronic hepatitis C continues to be a public health problem in Egypt. Its incidence may be increasing and its prevalence is the highest reported worldwide.

However, in the recent years, hepatitis C has received increased attention because of high prevalence of (HCV), so assessing knowledge is vital for patients in order to determine the weakness in patient's information and increase awareness to Challenge the spread of the disease.

Nurses are in a key position to carry out health education since they are the health care providers who have continuous contact with patients and their families and have the best opportunities to assess potential problems or side effects, discuss medical regimen and give teaching about all aspects of care which includes maintaining physical activity, recognizing activity limitations, conserving energy, following dietary modifications and adhering to medication schedule with Attention to side effects.

This study aims to:

- Assess knowledge for patient with chronic hepatitis C receiving interferon therapy .

- Recognize the most common side effects of interferon therapy for patients with chronic hepatitis C.

Setting of the study:

This study will be conducted at medical out patient clinics at Mansoura University Hospital and Mansoura International Hospital.

Subject of the study:

A purposive sample will be selected (500 patients).

- Tools for data collection:

The data will be collected through the following tools which are developed by the researcher:

Tool 1: Sociodemographic Data sheet:

Which include (age, sex, level of education, occupation, marital status…etc)

Tool 2: Medical History Sheet:

Part (A) Present Medical History:

Which includes series of questions to elicit subject's knowledge related to present medical history which include (duration of disease, how discovering disease …etc).

Part (B): Past Medical History:

Which includes series of questions to elicit subject's knowledge related to past medical history, which include (presence of chronic disease, family history of disease… etc).

Tool 3: Assessment Sheet For Knowledge Of Chronic   Hepatitis C Patients Receiving Interferon Therapy.

Which includes Series of questions to elicit subjects knowledge related to chronic hepatitis C which include (definition, mode of

transmission, signs and symptoms ,treatment, side effect for treatment, and complication, …etc).

Tools will be modified and developed by the researcher. Revised, tested for collection of required data based on review of relevant literature.

- **Pilot study:**

A pilot study will be carried out on 10% of the sample to test applicability and clarity of the tools, Modification will be done according to the results of pilot study.

The main study findings can be summarized as the following:

(1) More than two fifth of patients (40, 8%) were aged between 40 and 50 years old and, more than two third of patients (73, 4%) were male.

(2) In relation to marital status, most of the sample (84%) was married.

(3) Regarding residence, it was observed that, majority of patients (90.2%) were from rural area.

(4) Concerning educational level of the studied sample, it was observed that that more than one fourth (26, 4%) of the patients were illiterate, Where minority of the sample (9, 4%) had completed university degree.

(5) Regarding occupation, about two fifth of studied sample (39, 4%) were not worked.

(6) As regard to duration of disease, it was observed that, more than one half of the sample (53%) had chronic hepatitis C since one to less than five years.

(7) Concerning discovering chronic hepatitis C, it was observed that, more than two fifth of studied sample (43.4%) discovering disease accidentally.

(8) Concerning presence of chronic diseases, the finding of present study showed that, more than one fourth of studied sample (29, 8%) suffering from chronic diseases, with majority to hypertension (18.4%) of studied sample.

(9) As regarding to family history, about one third of the studied sample (31%) were have positive family history of chronic hepatitis C and more than one fifth of them (27, 6%) were first degree of relatives.

(10) Concerning patient's hospitalization, it was observed that, more than two fifth of studied sample (41, 4%) have history of hospitalization.

(11) As regarding to surgical operations it was observed that (39.3%) of studied sample made surgical operations but (3.6%) of patients had blood transfusion and (37.4%) of patients receive bilharisiais treatment.

(12) As regarding to knowledge degree of studied sample it was observed that (81%) had unsatisfied knowledge score about hepatitis C where only (19%) of them had satisfied knowledge score.

(13) The majority of studied sample had unsatisfied knowledge score about definition of disease (81.4%), mode of transmission (88%), and recommendations (100%).

(14) The majority of studied sample had satisfied knowledge score about investigations (71%), for treatment (69.6%), with high knowledge score for time of injection (94.4%), (94.6%) for site of injection and (94.8%) for duration of injection.

(15) Regarding side effects, it was observed that most common side effects related to interferon therapy were nervous (77%), headache (69.8%), fatigue (67.2%), fever (66%) anorexia (64%) loss of appetite (63.4%), hair loss (63.2%).

(16) It was observe that diarrhea (2.2%), enlarged thyroid gland (13.4%) and alopecia (16.8%) are less common side effects related to interferon therapy.

(17) Knowledge of the hepatitis C patients correlated negatively with their age, sex and marital status but correlate positively with their level of education P value (0.006), residence (0.029) and occupation (0.004).

(18) Knowledge of the hepatitis C patients correlated negatively with their duration of disease P value (0.944).