SUPPORTIVE CANCER CARE IN-PATIENT UNIT: A THREE YEARS EXPERIENCE

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Aim: An in-patient unit for supportive care in oncology (USSO) was created in 2011 in the Georges Pompidou European Hospital. Its primary objective is to improve patient care and manage the complications of cancer as well as their specific treatment.

Methods: A prospective observational study was performed through a yearly evaluation of the unit’s activity from January 1st 2011 to December 31st 2013.

Results: 594 patients were admitted in the unit during the three years period of study. Most of them (64.3%) came directly from home, with an increase of this rate along this period (59.4% to 67.6%). The early screening thereby rendered emergency admission from 17.7% (2011) to 6.5% (2013). The predominant diseases observed were head and neck cancer (42.4%) and lung cancer (23%), followed by breast (7.2%) and ovarian cancer (7.2%). The main grounds for hospitalization were state of health impairment 32%, pain 12.8%, and invasive procedures 11.8%, increasing from 2011 to 2013. Therefore, an interdisciplinary approach is the cornerstone of the unit with the daily collaboration of dieticians (for 90% of inpatients), social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists and pain specialists (34%, 46%, 56% and 50% of inpatients respectively). The average length of stay decreased from 2011 (10.2 days) to 2013 (8.3 days) and 58.4% of the patients were home discharged. With the help of a social worker, 12% of the patients were transferred to a recovery unit and 9.7% to a palliative care unit while 9% died in the unit.

Conclusions: With the opening of the in-patient USSO, and the development of its interdisciplinary strategy, most of the patients recover faster and regain better health. Preventive care can accommodate a majority of patients coming from home and allows for ambulatory secured discharge. These positive results conducted to enhance the USSO’s beds capacity and supportive care development in order to improve cancer care organization in the hospital as well as patient’s quality of life.

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