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A META-ANALYSIS OF NURSING INTERVENTIONS FOR PAIN RELIEF IN CANCER PATIENTS

Abstract:

Incidence and prevalence of cancer and cancer-related pain indicate that a majority of patients experience pain at one time or another during the course of treatment. Therefore, proper management of patients with pain is essential for controlling cost and alleviating patient suffering. There are a wide range of nursing interventions to relieve pain in cancer patients.

The purpose of this meta-analysis was to study nursing interventions for decreasing pain with cancer patients. The quasi-experimental research studies in Thailand during 1997 - 2008 were selected. Of 13 studies, 9 studies in the inclusion criteria were selected. The studies were analyzed for general, methodology, and type of nursing interventions. By using the method of Glass, McGraw, and Smith (1981), effect size was calculated for each study. According to Snyder (1992), the nursing interventions for pain relief in cancer patients were categorized into 3 types: cognitive intervention, sensory intervention, and mix intervention.

The results of study revealed that all types of nursing interventions on pain relief in cancer patients had large effect size. In Thailand, 22.22%, 33.33% and 44.44% of nursing studies on pain relief in cancer patients are classified as cognitive intervention, sensory intervention, and mix intervention. Recommendations for further studies include improving guidelines for nursing intervention and the development of nursing intervention databases on patients with cancer pain.

Keywords:

Pain Relief , Cancer Patients

JEL Classification: I10