

Enhancing BMT Care and Survivorship

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Aim/Purpose/Objective:

1. To explore the lived experience of individuals undergoing bone marrow transplant.
2. To explore the lived experience of caregivers of patients undergoing bone marrow transplant.

Sample: The study combined medical case studies and Interviews of patients who had received a bone marrow transplant and their care partners. The focus was to educate nurses regarding care of this patient population. Three bedside nurses created the first case study, with great detail regarding the medical care provided to the patient and the lived experience of someone experiencing the transplant.

Setting: An oncology unit in an academic medical center in New England.

Methodology: Case Study

The Case Study combined the medical cases of the care for patients undergoing cellular transplant with interviews with the patient and care partner. The interviews were conducted and analyzed using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis.

Results: Twelve pairs were interviewed. The interviews were combined with the medical case study to chronicle the transplant journey. Each pair had a uniqueness however the themes across all the stories included challenges during the care and the theme of remembrance and for some survivorship.

Conclusions: The Case Study Model described here provides insight into the impact of the care surrounding diagnosis and treatment for patients undergoing transplant. The model provides education on the medical/nursing plan as well as the impact of that plan on the patient and their care partners.

Implications: The holistic approach to patient care has always been a hallmark of nursing. This unique case study model provides an opportunity to consider the medical/ nursing care plan and the impact of that plan on the patient. The goal is to educate nurses to practice holistically as they care for cellular transplant patients. This case study model could be replicated with other disease processes.