ABSTRACT

Background: Music therapy has shown efficacy for management of cancer treatment-related symptoms in the adult oncology treatment setting1-4; thus, oncology nurses need adequate knowledge regarding this intervention. The purpose of this study was to explore oncology nurses’ knowledge level and perceptions regarding efficacy of music therapy for cancer treatment-related symptoms in adult oncology patients. Methods: This descriptive, exploratory study used a survey design. The research electronic survey was sent via Survey Monkey® by the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Marketing Department to a random sample of 1,000 active ONS members who met study inclusion criteria. The 33-item investigator-created survey had 3 sections: knowledge; perception; and demographics. Statistical analysis included means (SD) for continuous variables and frequencies (%) for categorical variables. For continuous variables, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was used to examine differences between groups; averages since data normality assumption was not satisfied. Chi-square and Fisher exact tests (cell counts <5) were used to explore relationships for categorical variables.

Results: Participants stated they had most knowledge of the rationale of music therapy for pain, anxiety, and depression. There was a significant relationship between the nurse’s perception of music therapy efficacy and the nurse initiating a discussion of music therapy with patients and making a referral. Conclusions: If nurses perceive music therapy to be efficacious for patients, they are more likely to incorporate it into patient care by initiating a discussion or referral for music therapy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Design: Descriptive, exploratory study using a survey design. Inclusion Criteria: a) oncology nurses ≥18 years of age; b) active ONS membership; c) oncology nurses providing direct patient care in an inpatient and/or outpatient adult cancer treatment settings; d) computer access; e) active e-mail address. Setting: Electronic survey administered through Survey Monkey®. Sampling Plan: Random sample of 1,000 ONS nurse members through ONS Marketing Department, Pittsburgh, PA. Research Instrument: Validated investigator-created 33-item survey with 3 sections: knowledge; perception; and demographics. Procedures: Following Georgetown University IRB approval, the survey was e-mailed to a random sample (N=1000) of eligible ONS nurse members by ONS Marketing Department Staff. Study collection dates were 2/16/16 to 3/16/16. ONS Marketing Department staff sent out reminder e-mail to sample week after initial e-mail. Study data were maintained on the PI’s password-protected computer. Data were downloaded from Survey Monkey® into Excel for statistical analysis. Confidentiality of all data was maintained. Statistical Analysis: Means and standard deviations for continuous variables and frequencies and percentages for categorical variables were computed. For continuous variables, non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was used to examine differences in averages between groups since data normality assumption was not satisfied. Chi-square and Fisher exact tests (cell counts <5) as appropriate were used to investigate relationships for categorical variables. A p value <0.05 indicated a statistically significant relationship.

RESULTS

Survey Response Rate: 7.3%.

Sample Demographics: Primarily female (95.52%) with mean age of 49.52 years (range = 25-67 years). Sample had an average 22.44 years of experience as a registered nurse and average of 16.73 years as an oncology nurse. RN preparation was diverse including 32.81% BSN program and 29.69% MSN.

*Figures created via Survey Monkey®.

CONCLUSIONS

Results from this pilot study suggest that oncology nurses may need further education regarding the efficacy of music therapy in the adult oncology treatment setting. In addition, if oncology nurses perceive music therapy to be efficacious, the more likely they are to refer a patient to music therapy or to initiate discussions about music therapy with patients. Therefore, it is important for oncology nurses to have appropriate, accessible sources of information regarding music therapy as stated by participants. Further research is needed with larger samples of oncology nurses regarding factors that can impact oncology nurses’ knowledge of and perceptions of music therapy as an efficacious intervention for cancer treatment-related symptoms in adults.


AIM 1. Examine the knowledge level of oncology nurses regarding rationale for music therapy used for cancer treatment-related symptoms in adults

AIM 2. To explore oncology nurses’ perceptions regarding music therapy efficacy in the adult oncology treatment setting

AIM 3. To examine factors impacting oncology nurses initiating referral for music therapy with this population

Older Oncology Nurses' Knowledge and Perceptions Regarding Music Therapy: 2016/2017 ONCOLOGY NURSES’ KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS REGARDING MUSIC THERAPY EFFICACY FOR CANCER TREATMENT-RELATED SYMPTOMS IN ADULTS

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Abstract

Purpose:

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Results: Participants stated they had most knowledge of the rationale of music therapy for pain, anxiety, and depression. There was a significant relationship between the nurse’s perception of music therapy efficacy and the nurse initiating a discussion of music therapy with patients and making a referral. Conclusions: If nurses perceive music therapy to be efficacious for patients, they are more likely to incorporate it into patient care by initiating a discussion or referral for music therapy.

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