

Abstract

Original Paper

Determination of Antineoplastic Drug Exposure of Nurses at a University Hospital

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Abstract

Background: This study was planned as a cross sectional, comparative study to determine exposure-related symptoms of nurses who administer antineoplastic drugs and factors affecting exposure.

Materials and Methods: The study included 73 nurses at a university hospital who administered ($n=32$) or did not administer ($n=41$) antineoplastic drugs. Data were collected using a questionnaire, which included personal and professional characteristics of the nurses and symptoms related to antineoplastic exposure. The data were analysed with the SPSS 19.0 program using percentages, mean values and the Pearson chi-square test.

Results: The average age the nurses was 31.3 ± 6.96 , 71.2% had a bachelor's degree, and 43.8% administered antineoplastic drugs. In the entire study group, 67.1% showed fatigue, 50.7% showed weakness, and 41.1% had hair loss. The symptoms of hair loss ($p<0.001$) and dizziness ($p=0.007$) were significantly more prevalent in nurses who administered antineoplastic drugs.

Conclusions: The nurses did not use sufficient personal protection measures during the preparation and administration of antineoplastic drugs. Training programs are needed to raise awareness of the risks posed by antineoplastic drugs, symptoms of exposure and protective measures.

Keywords: Nurses, antineoplastic drugs, side effects, protective measures