

KNOWLEDGE AND HOME PRACTICES OF CAREGIVERS HAVING
CHILDREN WITH LEUKEMIA ATTENDING NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
CAIRO UNIVERSITY

MANAL M. EL-SAWY, B. N. Sc.*; GEHAN M. ISMAIL, D. N. Sc. HEBA
MAGDY, D. N. Sc. ** and GEHAN A. EL-SAMMAN, D. N. Sc. ***

Department of Community Health Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Cairo University* -**

Department of Pediatric Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Cairo University***

Abstract

Children with leukemia usually suffer from many health problems and complications as a result of the disease process or the course of treatment. **Aim** of the study: was to assess the knowledge and home practices of family caregivers having children with leukemia. **Design:** descriptive research design was utilized in this study. **Setting:** the study was conducted at the out-patient clinic of the pediatric oncology department at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Cairo University. **Sample:** A sample of 192 family caregivers of newly diagnosed children with leukemia between the age of 6 -12 years of age who were receiving chemotherapy. **Tools for data collection:** Three tools were used. 1) Structured interviewing sheet: it had three parts: a. Sociodemographic characteristic of the children as: age, gender, education, child rank, etc...b. Sociodemographic characteristic of the caregivers as: age, gender, education, etc... c. Disease information: family history of cancer, types of treatment taken , etc...2) Knowledge questionnaire sheet consisted of 24 questions related to the caregiver's knowledge as disease definition, causes, signs and symptoms, etc... 3) Practice questionnaire sheet consisted of 27 questions related to the caregiver's practices such as care of symptoms and side effects of chemotherapy, etc...**Results:** More than two third of caregivers had partially satisfactory knowledge and practice scores concerning home care, dealing with disease and side effects of treatments. A statistically significant positive correlation was found between total knowledge and total practice scores of family caregivers. Also, a statistically significant correlation was found between total knowledge & practice scores and caregiver's education, income, place of residence, number of children in the family and duration of care. **Conclusion:** the study concluded that, the majority of caregivers had less than satisfactory knowledge and practices regarding care of their children with leukemia. **Recommendation:** Based on the study results it is recommended to develop a health education programs tailored to improve knowledge and home care practices of caregivers having children with leukemia.

Key words: family caregivers, children with leukemia