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**Title:** Impact of education on the knowledge and performance of the protective measures of anticancer drugs in clinical staff

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**Abstract:**

Introduction: The aim of present semi-experimental survey was to find the impacts of education on the knowledge and performance of the protective measures of anticancer drugs in clinical staff of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences.

Material and methods: The studied units include all working nursing staff (48) in oncology, clinic, and CSR wards of the pediatric oncology ward; the internal medicine ward and radiotherapy department of Namazi Hospital; chemotherapy departments in Motahari Clinic and Faghihi Hospital; and finally ten laboratory staff. The data gathering procedure was as follows:

1. A questionnaire for pre and post test evaluation, consisting of two parts: one for general information in which the demographic information was obtained and the other was concerned with protective measures of anticancer drugs. The second part included 40 questions for nurses and auxiliary nurses, 23 for nurse aides, and 7 for the laboratory staff.

2. A checklist which also consisted of two parts, the first part studied the use of protective tools (gloves, gown, mask, and glasses) when preparing and being in contact with anticancer drugs and the second part studied the use of protective tools (gloves, gown, and mask) when confronting the metabolites of the drugs (in the fluids of the patients' bodies under chemotherapy).

Data gathering was performed through several stages. First, the researcher and her assistants went to the research environment everyday and observing the performance of the subjects in contact with anticancer drugs and the metabolites of the drugs (in the fluids of patients' bodies under chemotherapy), completed the checklist for all units under study, then the questionnaires containing pre-test items were distributed among the units under study. After collecting the completed questionnaires, the researcher held 7 educational classes on the principles of protective measures against anticancer drugs and their metabolites. The lessons were presented in lectures for two hours and if necessary were extended for half an hour to answer all the questions. Then, the questionnaires containing post-test items were completed by each unit and were collected for further analysis. Furthermore, each person was given an illustrated guide booklet. To study the rate of recalling the materials taught in the units under study, the questionnaires containing post-exam items were distributed and collected after one month.

Finally, to find out the performance of the subjects on the observance of protective measures, the researcher with three assistants went to the subjects' research environment and completed the checklist when observing the subjects' performance.

Results: The findings revealed that before the education only 69% of the subjects had relatively enough knowledge of the measures (70-100 points out of 100), while immediately and one month after the education almost all the subjects obtained 70-100 points out of 100. (p=0.00001). On the other hand, following the education in comparison with pre-education status, subjects followed the protective measures concerning the anticancer drugs and their metabolites more carefully (p=0.00001).

Conclusion: education has positive impacts on the knowledge and performance of protective measures of handling anticancer drugs in clinical staff of Shiraz University of Medical sciences.

**Key words:** Education, Clinical staff, chemotherapy, knowledge, performance.

**Presentation:** Poster