

Is integration of palliative care into oncology services of any benefit to the patients.

Def; Integration is about the organization of various tasks (care) which need to be performed in order to provide a population with good quality health services

Aim-to find out from nurses working in palliative care units and oncology clinics the challenges and benefits

Method-30 nurses attended two days oncology symposium, 18 working in oncology clinics and 12 in palliative care units. All agreed oncology is a specialized field for nurses in cancer care as well as palliative care. Working in partnership and avoiding isolation improve patient care

Results-training of oncology and palliative care nurses is vital in order to improve the quality of life for our patients. Palliative care is an essential component of quality oncology care. There is a need for higher education in oncology nursing training in Kenya for a quality of care and job satisfaction. Challenges in integration services and training issues in cancer, the training of nurses at the bedside is not sufficiently adequate as a necessary tool in fight against cancer. Shortage of nurses in referral hospitals and other health institutions noted. Most training is inadequate and does not include cancer care. Integration provides quality care to patients in managing their symptoms, while allows oncologists to spend time to evaluate new patients.

Conclusion-PCU-oncology integration benefits patients by improving quality of life. Symptoms, mood and caregiver burden. Improving PC/oncology education in nursing school as well as in continuing medical education is crucial to overcome the knowledge barrier among providers. There is need to determine at what stage should palliative care be involved in oncology care.