



“Research of the attitudes of hematology and oncology dental patients about Dental Public Care”.

Ioanna Karagianni, Dentist, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, MSc Primary Health Care-Social Medicine.

Objective:

This essay inquires the factors that shape attitudes of hematology and oncology patients at the University General Hospital of Alexandroupoli about dental public care, considering the dental care services provided before and during the operation of the Dental Clinic for Vulnerable Groups of the University General Hospital in Alexandroupoli.

Methodology:

In this field survey, questionnaire was used as a research tool with random sampling of a group of vulnerable patients of the University General Hospital of Alexandroupoli (120 hematology and oncology patients) from 12/4/2024 till 12/5/2024 approved by University General Hospital in Alexandroupoli. (No ΕΣ8/Θ20/11-04-2024). Data analysis used SPSS.

Results:

The results report the factors and criteria that influence dental patients of vulnerable groups to choose (or not) to cooperate with a public dental facility, key data concerning their oral hygiene, health and care before and during cancer treatment. Specifically, it was found that 56 patients (47,1%) were never informed about the need for dental care before starting antineoplastic treatment .The majority of the sample, 81patients (68.1%), never at the past chose to visit a dentist during their treatment, 82 patients (68.9%) focused on the lack of a specialized dentist and 106 patients (89.1%) also answered that it is very important to have a specialized dental clinic, such as the Dental Clinic for Vulnerable Groups of the University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis. 101 patients (85%) rated very positively the services provided at the Vulnerable Groups Dental Clinic , who came after the guidance of the treating physicians for treatments before, during and after their antineoplastic treatment. 102 patients (85.7%) responded that it is equally important the cooperation between the dentist, hematologist-oncologist through medical records and scheduled treatment appointments, as there is a lot of anxiety of the complications at the mouth because of hemotherapy, a remark that was made by 57 patients (47,9%).

Conclusions:

After the processing of the survey data, it was found that the oral hygiene of patients of vulnerable groups is affected by their treatment and these patients are in need of awareness, preventive dentistry, and holistic dental care supported by the cooperation of attending physicians (hematologists or oncologists) and dentists. It was also found the importance of ultidisciplinary and holistic management of vulnerable groups and that the Dental Clinic for Vulnerable Groups of the University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis positively influenced the conscious visit to the dentist.

Acknowledgment:

Ioannis Kotsianidis, Professor of Hematology, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, DUTH.

Konstantinos Liapis, Assoc. Professor Hematology, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, DUTH.

Triantafilia Koukaki, Oncologist, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis.

Kyriakos Amarantidis , Oncologist, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis

Theodoros K. Konstantinidis, Professor, Medical School, DUTH