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Exploring nurses' experiences of supporting a cancer patient in their search for meaning

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Abstract

This article presents the findings from an interpretive phenomenology study looking at nurses' experiences of supporting cancer patients in their search for meaning. Eleven nurses were interviewed from a Medical Oncology Unit and a Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in a central London teaching hospital. Having analysed the interviews, six major themes were identified: the value of experience, understanding the search for meaning, the value of time, the relationships involved, caring and the skills used by nurses, and the difficulties nurses experienced and the support they needed to continue this role. Like many aspects of nursing care that are intangible in nature, this aspect of care was seen as important and valuable to the nurses in the clinical environments of cancer care. The findings do not represent a definitive approach to this aspect of care, but offer an insight into nurses' experiences. In order to continue this aspect of cancer care, the findings suggest that nurses need support.

Zusammenfassung

Eine Untersuchung der Erfahrungen des Pflegepersonals mit der Unterstützung von Krebspatienten bei ihrer Suche nach dem Sinn

Dieser Beitrag stellt die Ergebnisse einer interpretativen phänomenologischen Untersuchung dar, die die Erfahrungen des Pflegepersonals bei der Unterstützung von Krebspatienten in ihrer Suche nach dem Sinn beleuchtet. Elf Pflegerinnen von einer medizinischen Onkologiestation und einer Knochenmark-Transplantations-Station in einem Universitätskrankenhaus im Zentrum von London wurden befragt: Aus der Analyse der Interviews gingen sechs Hauptthemen hervor: Der Wert der Erfahrung, das Verständnis der Suche nach dem Sinn, der Wert der Zeit, die einschließen zwischenmenschlichen Beziehungen, die Fürsorge und die fachlichen Fähigkeiten des Pflegepersonals, sowie die Probleme, die sich dem Pflegepersonal stellten und die von ihm benötigte Unterstützung in der weiteren Ausübung dieser Rolle. Wie so viele Aspekte des Pflegedienstes, die von Natur aus nicht greifbar sind, wurde dieser Aspekt der Pflege in der klinischen Umgebung der Krebskrankenpflege als für das Pflegepersonal wichtig und wertvoll angesehen. Die Ergebnisse stellen keinen definitiven Ansatz zu diesem Aspekt der Pflege dar, bieten aber einen Einblick in die Erfahrungen des Pflegepersonals. Die Ergebnisse legen nahe, dass das Pflegepersonal Unterstützung braucht, um an diesem Aspekt der Krebsfürsorge auch weiterhin zu arbeiten.



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Keywords

search for meaning, cancer, experience, interpretive phenomenology, caring

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