

ONCOLOGY CASE STUDY #1

Chief Complaint

John, age 50, is in remission for Acute Myelocytic Leukemia. He was diagnosed 3 years ago and has had chemotherapy, radiation, and a stem cell transplant. He has been putting off his needed follow-up dental work due to cost and stating that “it is unaffordable and I have no dental insurance”. He reports chronic mouth pain that is affecting his quality of life. His insurance covered his expensive medical treatment, but does not cover dental. His cancer “cure” is impacted by poor quality of life related to his poor oral health.

Medications: Tylenol for mouth pain t.i.d.

Family History: No family history of cancer. Lives with wife and 2 high school age children; works as an accountant for a small family-owned business

Physical Exam: Alert, thin, reports difficulty eating b/c of pain on chewing, sleep disturbance, and fatigue. Patient reports, “This is the first time anybody has looked in my mouth”

HEENOT Exam: Winces during oral exam; cracked teeth, brown spots on several upper and lower front teeth; redness and swelling along left lower lateral gum line

DISCUSSION

Using the 4 IPEC Competencies (2016) related to:

1. Working with individuals of other professions to maintain a climate of mutual respect and shared values (Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practice);
2. Using the knowledge of one’s own role and those of other professions to appropriately assess and address the health care needs of patients and to promote and advance the health of populations (Roles/Responsibilities);
3. Communicating with patients, families, communities, and professionals in health and other fields in a responsive and responsible manner that supports a team approach to the promotion and maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of disease (Interprofessional Communication);
4. Applying relationship-building values and the principles of team dynamics to perform effectively in different team roles to plan, deliver and evaluate patient/population-centered care and population health programs and policies that are safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable (Teams and Teamwork).

Please collaborate as a team to develop a management plan for the above patient.

- Oral-Systemic Risk Assessment
 - Identify the oral-systemic assessment findings (Hx and PE HEENOT)
 - What does the history and physical tell us about this patient?
 - What additional data do you need to collect (eg. labs, diet and exercise, etc)?
 - Identify oral-systemic risk factors

- Differential Diagnosis(es)
 - Identify the tentative diagnoses for the oral health problems
 - Identify the tentative diagnoses for the systemic health problems
 - Discuss the important oral-systemic connections
- Develop a management plan for the oral-systemic conditions affecting this patient, including:
 - Preventive interventions that include screening and behavior change counseling that are fundamental to patient-centered care
 - Anticipatory guidance
 - Oral health maintenance
 - Collaboration and referral

Questions to Guide Your Interprofessional Collaboration

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - What is the scope of the role and responsibilities of each of the providers on your team today?
- Collaboration
 - How can the Nurse Practitioner, Dentist, Physician, Pharmacist, and Social Worker collaborate to promote this patient's health?
- Team Building & Communication
 - What do you think are the most effective strategies to help a Nurse Practitioner, Physician, Dentist, Pharmacist, and Social Worker function as a community-based primary care team?
 - What are the most effective ways for the IP team to communicate?
- Referrals and Follow-up
 - What providers does this patient need to see? When? How often?
 - What are the appropriate follow-up actions for each member of the primary care team?