

## RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

# Evaluation of Preventing Chemotherapy Induced Oral Mucositis Project in Patients with Cancer of the Female Reproductive System at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, Thailand

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### Abstract

Oral mucositis is an important and common complication among female patients who have cancer of the reproductive system receiving chemotherapy. This study aimed to evaluate the prevention of chemotherapy-induced oral mucositis project in female reproductive system cancer patients at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital. The clinical practice guidelines evaluation model of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO, 2002) was used as a framework. The subjects included 14 nurses and practical nurses, and 404 patient reports. Data were collected by using of two forms developed by the researcher; the nurses' opinion form about the project's implementation and a mucositis form. Data analysis was conducted using frequency, percentage, and mean. The findings showed that 92.9 % of the subjects reported that they could consistently follow the clinical practice guidelines. All of them (100.00 %) agreed that the clinical practice guidelines were easily to follow, convenient to use, had good outcome, reduced nursing time, and were satisfied with this project. After the project's implementation, it was found that mucositis was reduced from 22.0 % to 9.9 %. The results of this study confirm that with the prevention chemotherapy-induced oral mucositis project for female reproductive system cancer patients, care is more efficient. These results could be extended for use in other similar settings.

**Keywords:** Chemotherapy - oral mucositis - patients with cancer of the female reproductive system

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### Introduction

Oral mucositis makes the patients with cancer of the female reproductive system experience both physical and mental sufferings as well as changing social interaction. The patients have oral pains and problems in chewing and swallowing food (Cella et al., 2003). As a result, the patients' intake of nutrients and fluid is insufficient for physical needs; causing weariness and fatigue, and also increasing emotional imbalance, e.g. being irritated and short-tempered (Dodd et al., 2001). Oral mucositis also influences the treatment in that it causes the treatment to delay and the dosage is to be reduced in order to allow the oral mucositis to resume its normal condition. The patients then need additional treatments, both for analgesic administration and supplemental nutrient feeding (Sonis, Oster, & Fuchs, 2001). According to data collection from January-December 2007 on incidence of oral mucositis in the chemotherapeutic patients with cancer of female reproductive system in the Gynecological Ward 2, Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, it was found that 22.00% of these chemotherapeutic patients suffered from oral

mucositis.

In order to develop quality of preventive measure against oral mucositis in the chemotherapeutic patients with cancer of female reproductive system in the Gynecological Ward 2, a quality development project for taking care of the chemotherapeutic patients with cancer of female reproductive system was established. The project committee was appointed, consisting of 1 instructor associated with gynecological cancer, 3 nurses in Gynecological Ward 2, and the researchers. The researchers had taken part in the operation of this Preventing Chemotherapy Induced Oral Mucositis Project in chemotherapeutic patients with cancer of female reproductive system at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, starting from the preparation stage to the implementation of the clinical practice guidelines in the Gynecological Ward 2, Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University.

According to the e-data search, it was found that the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) had conducted a systematic literature review on the effectiveness of strategies for preventing and treating chemotherapy and radiation

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