

Nursing Division

Introduction

The number of nurses at the National Cancer Center Hospital is under strict governmental control. However, the steady increase of the number of patients treated at this hospital, especially at the operation room and the chemotherapy clinic, has necessitated according augmentation of nursing staff and it has increased from 366 in 1999 to 432 in 2003. In 2003, five posts were newly established for certified nurse specialists; risk-manager, infection-manager, and cancer care.

The infection-managers, nominated in 2002, played an important role in not only educating nurses but also advising doctors to prevent in-hospital infections. The MRSA infection has decreased. WOC (wound, ostomy and continence) nurses have contributed to decrease the occurrence of decubitus ulcers.

Several important events took place in the Nursing Division in 2003. The Third International Seminar on Cancer Nursing was held in March and we invited speakers from USA, UK, France, Singapore and China. The theme of the seminar was "Support for people who confront cancer" and, as the previous meetings in 2001 and 2002, the Seminar was a great success with fruitful discussion by the front-line cancer nurses.

Educational Activities

We have the original educational program for cancer nursing and have constantly held conferences. Besides, we send nurses to cancer hospitals in the USA every year. In 2003, three nurses were trained at Mayo Clinic and MD Anderson Cancer Center. We also invited 4 trainee nurses from Mayo Clinic and had a lot of important discussion.

The number of qualified oncology nurses is still very small in Japan. The NCCH is expected to train specialist nurses and we are always trying to improve the educational system. In 2003, a total of 446 nurses participated in various educational seminars.

Research Activities

The number of lectures and contributions to journals are increasing. In addition, we have a task to develop the cancer information network system as a national hospital through which all the hospitals treating cancer patients share the same information and practice consistent care throughout Japan in the future. As the number of graduate nurses increased in our hospital, more nurses give presentations in academic meetings or submit research papers. There were 9 presentations from our center at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Japan Nursing Association, 2 at the WWOC association meeting, 2 at the Palliative Medicine congress, etc.

● K. Nagamae ●