

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 has necessitated according augmentation of nursing staff, and it has increased from 366 in 1999 to 435 in 2004. The opening of the Research Center for Cancer Prevention and Screening in February 2004 also facilitated this augmentation. The average age of the nurses is 28.2 years and 22% of them have a college degree. The average length of their service in this hospital is 5.7 years.

The Japanese Nursing Association established accreditation of Certified Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Certified Expert Nurse (CEN) in 1996, and we have currently 16 certified members in this hospital. Newly certified in 2004 were 2 for infection control, 1 for psychiatric mental health, and 1 for pain control.

In February, 2004, we organized the 18th congress of the Japan Cancer Nursing Association at Tokyo. More than 2000 members participated in it and 193 papers were presented in 39 fields. We ourselves presented 19 papers.

The 4th International Seminar on Cancer Nursing was also held in February, and we invited speakers from various countries under the theme of "Support for people who confront cancer: Part II".

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 2004, three nurses were trained at Mayo Clinic and Vanderbilt University.

The number of certified 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. The 11th Extension Lecture Course for oncology nursing was held in 2004 with a theme of the role of nurses in the team approach.

Research Activities

The number of lectures and contributions to journals are increasing. Our paper on planned diet for patients with GVHD after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, presented at the 26th congress of the Japanese Association of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, won a prize and was highly appreciated.

We have started a collaboration research with Gustave Roussy Cancer Center, France, and will soon publish the results.

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