
Postgraduate Certificate in Psycho-Oncology

Psychiatric Disorders in Cancer Patients

****Anorexia****

Concept: Anorexia, in the context of cancer, refers to a loss of appetite or a decrease in food intake that can lead to weight loss and malnutrition.

Related terms: Cachexia, malnutrition, weight loss

Explanation: Anorexia is a common symptom in cancer patients, caused by a variety of factors including the cancer itself, treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, and psychological factors. It can lead to significant weight loss, malnutrition, and decreased quality of life.

****Cachexia****

Concept: Cachexia is a complex metabolic disorder characterized by weight loss, muscle wasting, and weakness.

Related terms: Anorexia, malnutrition, inflammation

Explanation: Cachexia is a common and often irreversible condition in advanced cancer patients, and is associated with poor prognosis. It is caused by a combination of factors including anorexia, inflammation, and metabolic abnormalities.

****Delirium****

Concept: Delirium is an acute disturbance in attention and awareness, characterized by confusion, disorientation, and changes in cognition.

Related terms: Agitation, hallucinations, delusions

Explanation: Delirium is a common complication in cancer patients, especially in those who are hospitalized or receiving palliative care. It can be caused by a variety of factors including medication side effects, infections, and metabolic abnormalities.

****Depression****

Concept: Depression is a mood disorder characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and loss of interest in activities.

Related terms: Anxiety, mood disorder, antidepressants

Explanation: Depression is a common complication in cancer patients, with a prevalence of up to 25%. It can have a significant impact on quality of life, treatment adherence, and survival.

****Fatigue****

Concept: Fatigue is a subjective feeling of physical, emotional, and cognitive tiredness or exhaustion.

Related terms: Cancer-related fatigue, asthenia, sleep disturbance

Explanation: Fatigue is one of the most common symptoms experienced by cancer patients, and can be caused by the cancer itself, treatments, and psychological factors. It can have a significant impact on daily functioning and quality of life.

****Neuropsychological****

Concept: Neuropsychological refers to the study of the relationship between the brain and behavior, including cognitive, emotional, and social functioning.

Related terms: Neurocognitive, neuropsychiatric, neuropsychological assessment

Explanation: Neuropsychological assessments are used to evaluate cognitive and emotional functioning in cancer patients, and can help to identify areas of impairment and inform treatment planning.

****Neuropsychiatric****

Concept: Neuropsychiatric refers to disorders that affect the brain and behavior, including cognitive, emotional, and motor functioning.

Related terms: Neuropsychological, neurocognitive, neuropsychiatric assessment

Explanation: Neuropsychiatric symptoms are common in cancer patients and can include delirium, depression, and cognitive impairment.

****Neurotoxicity****

Concept: Neurotoxicity refers to damage to the nervous system caused by exposure to toxic substances, including chemotherapy and radiation.

Related terms: Peripheral neuropathy, cognitive impairment, encephalopathy

Explanation: Neurotoxicity can have a significant impact on quality of life, and can manifest as peripheral neuropathy, cognitive impairment, or encephalopathy.

****Psychosis****

Concept: Psychosis is a serious mental disorder characterized by hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking.

Related terms: Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychotic symptoms

Explanation: Psychosis is a rare but serious complication in cancer patients, and can be caused by the cancer itself, treatments, or other factors.

****Psycho-oncology****

Concept: Psycho-oncology is a multidisciplinary field that focuses on the psychological, social, and behavioral aspects of cancer.

Related terms: Psychological, oncology, psychiatry, psychology

Explanation: Psycho-oncology aims to improve the quality of life of cancer patients and their families through the prevention, early detection, and treatment of psychological distress.

****Sleep Disturbance****

Concept: Sleep disturbance refers to problems with the quality, duration, or timing of sleep.

Related terms: Insomnia, hypersomnia, sleep-wake cycle

Explanation: Sleep disturbances are common in cancer patients, and can be caused by the cancer itself, treatments, or psychological factors. They can have a significant impact on quality of life and daily functioning.

****Suicide****

Concept: Suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's own death.

Related terms: Suicide ideation, suicide attempt, completed suicide

Explanation: Suicide is a rare but serious complication in cancer patients, and is associated with depression, hopelessness, and poor quality of life.

****Tumor Lysis Syndrome****

Concept: Tumor lysis syndrome is a metabolic disorder caused by the rapid destruction of cancer cells.

Related terms: Electrolyte imbalance, renal failure, hyperuricemia

Explanation: Tumor lysis syndrome can lead to electrolyte imbalances, renal failure, and hyperuricemia, and can have a significant impact on quality of life and survival.

****Wernicke's Encephalopathy****

Concept: Wernicke's encephalopathy is a neurological disorder caused by thiamine deficiency.

Related terms: Thiamine, Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome, ataxia

Explanation: Wernicke's encephalopathy is a medical emergency and can lead to confusion, ataxia, and ophthalmoplegia. It is a rare but serious complication in cancer patients, and is associated with poor prognosis.