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A Study on Safety Measures in Handling Chemotherapy Drugs Among Oncology Nurses

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ABSTRACT

Safety measures in handling chemotherapy drugs are essential for protecting oncology nurses, patients, and other healthcare workers from potential health hazards. Chemotherapy drugs are powerful medications used to treat cancer by destroying or controlling the growth of cancer cells. However, these drugs may also cause harmful effects if healthcare professionals are exposed to them through inhalation, skin contact, accidental injection, or ingestion. Oncology nurses play an important role in the preparation, administration, handling, and disposal of chemotherapy medications. Therefore, they must possess adequate knowledge and follow appropriate safety practices while performing their duties. Important safety measures include wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), such as chemotherapy-tested gloves, protective gowns, masks, and eye protection whenever required. Nurses should follow proper procedures for drug preparation and administration, use designated areas for handling hazardous drugs, and avoid direct contact with contaminated materials. Safe disposal of chemotherapy waste, proper hand hygiene, immediate management of accidental spills, and adherence to hospital safety guidelines are also important preventive measures. Regular training and structured teaching programmes can improve nurses' knowledge, confidence, and practical skills regarding chemotherapy drug safety. Continuous education and strict implementation of safety protocols help reduce occupational exposure, prevent workplace hazards, and promote a safe working environment in oncology wards.