



COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM), PHYTOTHERAPY: HOW TO MANAGE AUTOMEDICATION IN CANCER PATIENTS?

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Introduction :

Phytotherapy is the most used alternative medicine in oncology, however the inappropriate use of its products can lead to a risk of toxicity and interactions with anti-cancer drugs. The objective of this study is to establish an inventory relating to the consumption of medicinal plants at the SETIF Cancer Center and to detect the possible impact on the therapeutic management.

Material and Methods : Our survey focused on a cohort of 120 patients at SETIF Cancer Center and 50 herbalists, spanning a period of 4 months in 2017.

Results and Discussion : Data analysis showed that 90% of patients consumed medicinal plants for management of chemotherapy side effects (43%), curative or analgesic purposes. The majority (96%) of patients were still receiving their conventional cancer treatments, and this in conjunction with medicinal plants (48%). Curcuma longa, Nigella sativa, and Aristoloshia longa were the most prescribed plants by herbalists (50%), the majority of whom had no knowledge of cancer and anti-cancer treatments.

Conclusion : Herbal medicine largely escapes regulation, which is a real problem in oncology, urging us to constantly raise awareness among patients in order to ensure the safety and the effectiveness of treatments.

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Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), phytotherapy: How to manage automedication in our cancer patient in Chile.

Today in Chile the main cause of death is cancer. And as the rest of the world, this prevalent pathology is treated mainly through conventional medicine such as chemotherapy, hormone therapy, surgery, immunotherapy, brachytherapy, among others.

Despite this official medicine, cancer patients sometimes decide to use some type of alternative, complementary medicine or herbal medicine in order to improve their quality of life. This is mainly influenced by family members, social networks and the media. Being generally a self-medication product.

Among these therapies, the most used are phytotherapy, medical herbs and some minerals, where the main source of obtaining these products is through fairs, self-cultivation and pharmacies.

This is where the pharmacist's role is fundamental when it comes to providing pharmaceutical care and proper conciliation. With this process we can contribute directly to the detection of problems, not only related to antineoplastic therapy and the rest of the drugs consumed by the patient, if not also with CAM, phytopharmaceuticals and medical herbs therefore achieving therapy optimization through patient education.

The trend is to achieve an educated patient regarding these issues to be successful in treatment.

Abstract:

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), phytotherapy: how to manage automedication in cancer patients? (Trai Tharnpanich, Thailand)

Nowadays, cancer patients can easily purchase complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Cancer patients are treated with complicated medications, including chemotherapies, immunotherapies, antiemetics, and antibiotics. In addition, some cancer patients are receiving polypharmacy based on their comorbidities. So, those medications used together with CAM can happen. Drug-drug interaction could cause a therapeutic problem as soon as the impact on a clinical parameter reaches the level of clinical relevance. This session describes and discusses the common CAM cancer patients and the prevalence of cancer patients who use CAM concurrently with primary treatment in Thailand. Including personal experience with pharmaceutical care in cancer patients to prevent using CAM and complications found from CAM.