



Workshop Summary: During Transplantation

Challenges of providing an in-patient service discussed:

- Generic psycho-oncology service - only a small portion for BMT referrals.
- Difficult to manage sporadic ward referrals when patients sometimes need intensive support.
- Sometimes it can feel as if we are plugging a gap as ward nurses are too busy to support and talk to patients - appropriateness of referrals.
- Issue of providing staff support when staff are often too busy to attend supervision/clinical reflection groups.
- Issue of resistance to involve palliative care by treating teams.

Strategies people have tried in their units:

- Using the distress thermometer/ concerns checklist to assess if patients need psychological support
- Using pre-assessment as an opportunity to assess and predict psychological input
- Creating a flow-chart to suggest other steps to take before referring to psychology.
- Building up relations with staff team - e.g. calling into the ward at a regular time to ask about the patients on the ward that week and who may need psychological support. Consultation advice also given about patients. Also an opportunity to find out how staff are coping and recognise changes in stress levels.
- Running specific teaching sessions or fitting in with pre-existing teaching session - e.g. JACIE.
- Recommending rotation of staff to prevent burnout and to allow ward staff to see patients who get better from BMT and get back to normal life.
- Finding a way to validate that ward staff are doing a good job and recognising their own limitations. Find a way to help staff recognise that patients have chosen BMT as a treatment option (albeit under difficult circumstances).
- Suggestions for patients going through a BMT: making the room their own, using the internet to communicate with family (skype/webcam/facebook) and with other patients on the ward (to prevent infection spread but allow people to share experiences and support each other).
- Improving communication between doctors and nurses - suggesting team meetings to discuss issues that arise