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Title of Research *	Patient Characteristics and Nursing Care Planned on Four Specialty Oncology Units
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Introduction & Purpose *	The purpose of this study is to examine patient characteristics and planned nursing care using standardized nursing terminologies to identify the needs of cancer patients.
Experimental Design *	This is a descriptive retrospective study. We included 429 patients with cancer admitted on four oncology units in a tertiary hospital over 2 months. Care plans were developed using nursing diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes based on NANDA-I, NIC, and NOC. Data were retrieved from medical records, the nursing documentation system, and the tumor registry center.
Results *	Demographics showed that 62% were female, 90% were white, and 35% were retired. Most patients returned home (85%); and 2% died in the hospital. Descriptive analysis identified 1,111 nursing diagnoses, 1,860 nursing interventions, and 1,311 nursing outcomes for the 429 patients. Overall, each cancer patient had approximately 2 nursing diagnoses, 3 to 4 nursing interventions, and 2 to 3 nursing outcomes. The most frequent nursing diagnoses were Acute Pain (26%), Risk for Infection (9%), and Nausea (9%). The most frequent nursing interventions were Pain Management (22%), Fall Prevention (6%), and Teaching: Procedure/Treatment (6%). The most frequent outcomes were Pain Level (23%), Infection Severity (8%), and Knowledge: Treatment Procedure (8%).
Conclusions *	Pain was the dominant concept in the nursing care provided to oncology patients. Risk for Infection was the most frequent nursing diagnosis in the leukemia and bone transplant unit. Thus, this study demonstrates that cancer patients admitted to specialty units tend to have the same nursing diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes regardless of the type of cancer diagnosis. Identifying a set of core diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes for oncology nurses can direct nursing care so that it targets areas of high impact and can also guide education and evaluation of nurse competencies.

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