‘Effectiveness of a self-instructional module on knowledge and practice of staff nurses working in selected hospital related to safe handling of antineoplastic drugs.’

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INTRODUCTION
Health is the greatest wealth in the life. Chronic diseases are often a challenge to our health and life. Cancer is one of the chronic diseases with long duration of illness and difficulty to resolve. Cancer is a term used for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and are able to invade other tissues. Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for 7.6 million deaths (around 13% of all deaths) in 2008. According to the World Cancer Report from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, cases of cancer doubled globally between 1975 and 2000, will double again by 2020, and will nearly triple by 2030. The projected numbers of cancer cases for 2030 are 20 to 26 million new diagnoses and 13 to 17 million deaths. In India, 50,000 deaths occurred due to cancer in 2010. As per the figures released in 2012 by the Hospital Based Cancer Registry of Regional Cancer Centre, 2,49,362 patients visited there for treatment in the last 30 years.

NEED OF THE STUDY
Anti-neoplastic drugs cannot differentiate between normal cells and targeted cancer cells, posing health risks to the health workers who administer it without taking adequate protective measures. Unintentional exposure to chemotherapy agents may endanger the lives of healthcare workers. Pharmacists and nurses have reported acute symptoms from exposure, such as skin irritation, sore throat, cough, dizziness, headache, hair loss, allergic reaction, diarrhoea, nausea, and vomiting. Repeated exposure to chemotherapeutic agents may cause carcinogenic, mutagenic (induces or increases genetic mutations) and teratogenic (causes malformations in developing embryos) effects. The adverse reproductive effects associated with occupational exposure to anti-neoplastic drugs include temporary or permanent infertility, birth defects, menstrual dysfunction, ectopic pregnancies, miscarriage, abortions, and preterm labour.

OBJECTIVES
1. Assess the level of knowledge of staff nurses regarding the safe handling of antineoplastic drugs before and after administration of self-instructional module.
2. Identify the level of practice of staff nurses in safe handling of antineoplastic drugs before and after administration of self-instructional module.
3. Correlate knowledge and practice of staff nurses regarding the safe handling of antineoplastic drugs.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of self-instructional module by comparing pre-test and post-test knowledge and practice scores.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Design:** Pre experimental design  
**Samples:** Nurses  
**Technique:** Purposive sampling technique  
**Proposed tool:** Self instructional module

**Data collection plan:**
- Data collection period.
- Taking ethical clearance.
- Taking permission from hospital.
- Taking consent from sample.
- Administering tool and collecting data.
- Data analysis by descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

**RESEARCH ANALYSIS**

Antineoplastic drugs used for the treatment of cancer, cannot differentiate between normal cells and cancer cells, posing health risks to nurses who administer it without adequate precautions. Study was aimed to assess effectiveness of a self instructional module (SIM) on knowledge and practice of staff nurses working in oncology units related to safe handling of antineoplastic drugs in Athena Institute of health Sciences, Mangalore. The research design is pre-experimental, one group pre-test post-test design. Sample consisted of 30 staff nurses administering chemotherapy, selected by purposive sampling. Pre-test assessment was done using baseline proforma, structured questionnaire for assess knowledge and observational checklist for assessing practice, and then the SIM was administered. Post-test was conducted after 7 days. Mean pre-test and post-test knowledge scores were 16.43 and 21.53 respectively. Mean pre-test and post-test practice scores were 31.6 and 36.5 respectively. A significant improvement (P<0.001) in knowledge and practice of staff nurses regarding safe handling of antineoplastic drugs were found after administration of SIM; which showed SIM was effective Study concluded that service education programs have to be conducted periodically to update nurses knowledge.

**REFERENCES**