My day with Oncology Pharmacy - Zambia

Joel K. Simbeye, Harrison Kalombo And Maliwa Mulapesi Mushikita
University Teaching Hospital-Cancer Diseases Hospital

1. Introduction

Pharmacists from two (2) hospitals answered the questions, all of them are university hospitals. Their answers represent the actual situation in Zambia. At the moment, pharmacists are responsible for the production and supply of anti-cancer drugs and have no additional activities on the ward. They have to invest nearly their full working capacity into the manufacturing and logistical process of cytostatics. Patient care is mainly covered by special clinical pharmacists.

2. Material and method

Survey was distributed via email to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in oncology pharmacy and aseptic services in Zambia. The survey consisted of 14 questions.

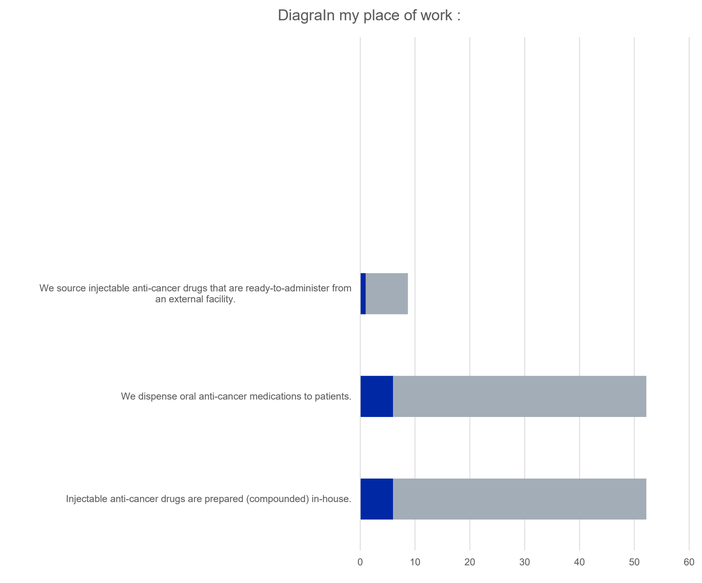

Fig.1: Shows dispensations and preparation of anticancer agents

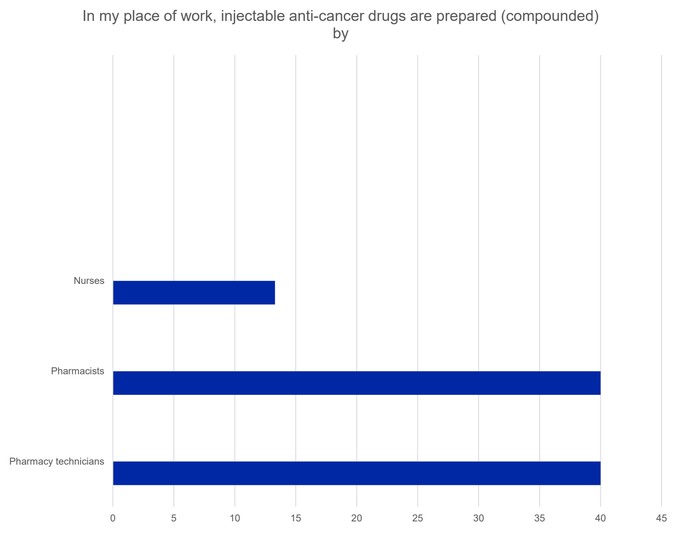

Fig.2: Shows personnel involved in the preparation of anticancer medicines

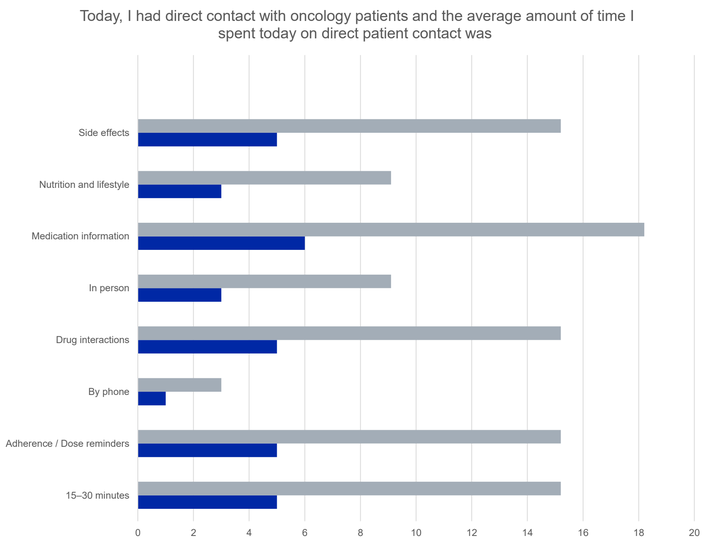

Fig.3: Sows patient counselling

3. Results and discussion

Working Conditions:
All survey respondents worked in hospitals that manufacture oncologicals mainly by gravimetric procedure. The prescriptions are validated by pharmacists. All produced medications are released by pharmacists

Workplace activities such as:
Manufacturing patient specific infusions versus out-sourcing ready-to-administer medications
Number of medications produced per day
Validation of prescription from physicians
Form of prescription (electronic or paper based by email, fax, telephone call…)
Release of produced medications
Usage of the ESOP database for oral drugs
Patient consultation on medical properties, side effects and setting up medication schedules
Invested working hours in oncology pharmacy activities

Fig.4: Shows Pharmacist compounding in a Biosafety Cabinet

Fig.5: Shows Pharmacists led by Maliwa doing Quality Assurance before sending files into the Chemotherapy Reconstitution room

Conclusion

Oncology pharmacists play a crucial role in maintaining medication safety and efficacy. In Zambia, respondents described working practices in the aseptic compounding unit and on the ward. Oncology pharmacy is advancing in Zambia, aiming to improve clinical pharmacy services at ward level, to enable dialogue with physicians and care unit. More and more hospitals directly integrate the production module into the oncological outpatient unit to avoid long transportation. This will make it possible that oncology pharmacists can combine clinical and manufacturing aspects of the therapy. They also need special EUSOP training.

Contact

Joel K. Simbeye
Working
University Teaching Hospital-Cancer Diseases Hospital
E-mail:jcsimbeye@gmail.com

References

1. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Aenean commodo l enim justo, rhoncus igula eget
2. Aenean massa. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.
3. sem. Nulla consequat massa quis enim. Donec pede justo, fringilla vel, aliquet nec, vulputate eget, arcu. In enim justo, rhoncus ut, imperdiet a, venenatis vitae,
4. dictum felis eu pede mollis pretium. Integer tincidunt. Cras dapibus. Vivamus elementum semper nisi. Aenean vulputate eleifen