

VALIDATION OF A COLOSTOMY CARE ALGORITHM

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BACKGROUND:

One of the main challenges that patients with advanced colon cancer are confronted with, is the management of colostomy. HOSPICE Casa Sperantei provides a stoma therapy service that operates both in acute care and palliative care services in the area. In the last five years (2013-2018) the service provided 1844 consultations, 58,78% in acute services- surgical units, and 41,22% in palliative care services, outpatient and inpatient

AIM: To develop and validate in clinical practice a colostomy care algorithm. The algorithm purpose was to provide the following:

- 1** The necessary and relevant information to facilitate a standardized approach in assessing the person with colostomy and selecting the right interventions
- 2** Facilitating the evidenced based care
- 3** Avoiding the unnecessary/ harmful actions, preventing the possible complications and also early detection and management for the occurred complications

METHOD: The instrument was developed based on literature review and nurse's expertise in care for colostomies. Alongside the algorithm, 5 clinical vignettes were prepared. Meetings with groups of registered nurses, practicing in acute and palliative care settings were held. Following written consent, respondents answered demographic questions and worked individually a plan of stoma care intervention for each of 5 clinical vignettes. The care plans were analyzed regarding the correctness and completeness. A brief algorithm tutorial followed and then the individual care plans designed were reanalyzed using the algorithm. After using the created instrument, they answered to a questionnaire regarding the usefulness, the content, the structure and way of using the algorithm. The results of the questionnaire were analyzed using SPSS 20.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

A literature review was made and 25 references were selected. The authors decided upon the structure of the algorithm with two main categories: **assessment and interventions**. The detailed domains were: **medical documents, psychosocial and cognitive, assessment of the functionality, local assessment** (colostomy's position, colostomy itself, skin around stoma, type and volume of the eliminations). On the algorithm, the users can also see three notes regarding: essential steps to remember when care for a colostomist, items need to be touch in the counseling proces, information necessary to include in educational process.

Sessions with nurses from surgical, oncological, palliative care services and other services were organized. 49 nurses participated at the sessions organized, in groups.

The analyses of demographic data revealed:



AVERAGE MARKS CARE PLANS	THE DATA FROM QUESTIONNAIRES SHOWS:
Pre-algorithm care plans: 6.29	Useful: 40.8%
Post-algorithm care plans: 9	Useful and logical: 36.7%
	Logical: 22.4%
	Hard to comprise: 0%
	<i>One suggestion was made: more examples-pictures/ videos</i>

All of the participants found there are no unknown terms and no need for more explanations

HOW EASY IS TO FOLLOW THE ALGORITHM IN RESOLVING CASES?	THE MOST USEFUL INFORMATION IN THE ALGORITHM WERE CONSIDERED	
Easy: 63.3%	Local assessment: 34.8%	None of the participants consider that any information should be presented on the algorithm less detailed. The participants do not have any suggestion for information that should be added.
Very easy: 30.6%	Interventions: 32.6%	
Hard: 6.1%	Assessment & interventions: 19.6%	
Very hard: 0%	All: 13%	

EXPLANATORY IMAGES IN THE ALGORITHM	COMMENTS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION
Useful: 79.6%	A useful tool for practitioners: 34.7%
Well illustration of the text: 20.4%	Easy to implement: 18.4%
Useless: 0%	The algorithm is seen like a professional evidenced based resource/ tool: 16.3%
The positioning is not clear: 0%	For implementing the algorithm need to organized like a brochure versus poster: 10.2%
	Hard to implement because of limited resources: 4.1%
	Hard to implement: 2%
	No answer: 14.3%

Suggestion made: 4,1 % participants would like the images to be bigger and another 4.1% would like more and bigger images.

REGARDING THE "NOTES" PRESENTED, THE PARTICIPANTS CONSIDER: **Correlation between studies level and most useful information explained in algorithm showed the need of information regarding local assessment domain for the participants with Post- secondary professional studies (p = 0.05)**

CONCLUSION: The algorithm purpose was act as a learning tool. It was considered very useful by the nurses who participated in the study. It was proved that the care plans were more accurate, more efficient, effective and comprehensive after the tutorial session. It is seen as a valued professional instrument and a useful tool for practitioners. For a better implementation stage, the nurses would prefer to have the information in a brochure instead of a poster and the dissemination stage should comprise an educational session.

98% opt positive: "very useful"/ "extremely useful"/"very good"/ "cool", 2% no answer. The notes with items need to be touch in the counseling proces and information necessary to include in educational process were considered in **85.7%** - very usefull. **14.3%** did not answer.