Psychological aspects of care for a child with cancer and his family

Pediatrics

ETCS credits: 1

Stage of study: 8-9 semester

Type and length of course: Practicals: 5 hours
Seminars: 10 hours
Total: 15 hours

Coordinator of the elective course: Olga Zając-Spychała; MA in psychology, MD
Katarzyna Derwich; MD

Chair/Department: Department of Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Transplantation;
Head  Prof. dr med. Jacek Wachowiak

Course objectives:
Psychological aspects of care for family and for a child with cancer. Conversations with parents and child hospitalized due to cancer, learn how to inform children and parents about the diagnosis, as well as about the treatment and prognosis in cancer.

Course content:
1. Fundamentals of clinical psychology in terms of cancer occurring in children:
   ➔ impact of disease on the child's mental state, his siblings and parents - the types of emotional reactions to diagnosis
   ➔ psychological methods of influence on the child's emotional state before applying diagnostic and therapeutic procedures (reduction of anxiety caused by hospitalization)

2. Psychological care of the child with cancer:
   ➔ rules for talking to children about cancer and treatment
   ➔ understanding of cancer among children and adolescents
   ➔ child's quality of life during treatment
   ➔ recurrence of the disease - emotional reactions

3. Psychological care of the child cured of cancer:
   ➔ the role of psychological support in adapting to life after treatment
   ➔ child's emotional reactions associated with the disease (fear of recurrence)

4. Psychological help the child's family with the cancer:
   ➔ provide information about diagnosis for parents of child with cancer)

5. Intervention in a crisis situation (the child's health deterioration, relapse, changes in the process of treatment, withdrawal of treatment, other crises in the family child).

6. Psychological aspects of care in the terminal phase of cancer:
   ➔ definition of palliative care
   ➔ decision to refer the child to the hospice
   ➔ principles of treatment of pain in a child in the terminal phase of illness
   ➔ prepare families for death of child
   ➔ experience of mourning by the family after the loss of a child

References:
1. Philip A. Pizzo, David G. Poplack : “Principles and Practice of Pediatric Oncology”.
   Lippincott Williams&Wilkins (fifth edition), 2006
3. Steven H.Swerdlow, Elias Campo, Nancy L. Harris et all.: „WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues”.
   WHO PRESS, STYLUS PUBLISHING, LLC  2008

Form of final assessment: based on active participation and attendance