Pharmacist Initiated Oncology Pharmacy Practice Development in Vietnam

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Objectives

- Discuss the barriers in developing oncology pharmacy practice
- Discuss the role of the pharmacist in developing oncology practice

Country

- Population 85.8 million people
  - 3rd most populated in South-East Asia
- 13th most populated in the world
- Gross domestic product 2009: $1064 US
- Health expenditure per capita (US$)

Healthcare System

- Socialized healthcare
  - Based on general government revenue
- Renovation of 1986
  - Introduction of user charges
  - Health insurance introduced
  - Private practice in health care
  - Opening of pharmaceutical market

Cancer Care

- Most common cancers
  - Males
    - Lung, stomach, liver, colorectal, nasopharynx
  - Females
    - Breast, cervix uteri, stomach, colon-rectum, lung
- 2 cancer centers before 1990
  - Ho Chi Minh
  - Hanoi
- Primary prevention
  - Tobacco control program
  - HBV vaccine

Disclosure

There are no actual or potential of conflicts of interest related to the content of this presentation.

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Hue Hospitals

- Total beds: 3,000+
  - Hue Central
    - Public
  - University Hospital
    - Mixed public and private
  - International Hospital
    - Private
  - Oncology practice
    - No outpatient offices
    - No practice guidelines
    - No electronic health record
    - Chemotherapy preparation by nurses
    - Patient access to care limited

Current Role and Barriers of Pharmacy Practice in Hue Central Hospital

- Role
  - Inventory management
  - Medication dispensing
- Barriers
  - Pharmacy education
  - Clinical training
  - Time investment
  - Funding
  - Interdisciplinary teams

Which of the following are not barriers to establishing oncology pharmacy practice?

A. Education  
B. Trained personnel  
C. Time  
D. International relations and volunteers

Steps in Advancing Clinical Oncology Care

- Education
  - Pharmacist volunteers
    - Interdisciplinary patient case discussions
  - Pain and palliative initiatives
    - Pharmacy practice guidelines
  - Medication safety
    - Class III biological safety cabinet
    - Aseptic technique
    - Hazardous precautions
  - Medication formulary management
    - Establish formulary agents
    - Maintain stable formulary
    - Delegate the role of pharmacist

Discuss the role of the pharmacist in developing oncology practice

What are steps that a pharmacist can initiate to improve care?

A. Develop evidence based protocols and guidelines for practice  
B. Ensure safe chemotherapy handling  
C. Education  
D. All of the above