Filling the Gaps: An Evaluation of Patient Benefit from a Multidisciplinary Neuropathy Clinic
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Purpose/Aim

The purpose of this project was to evaluate how attending a multidisciplinary clinic benefits neuropathy patients.

The aim for this project was to survey patients two weeks after their initial appointment in an effort to understand their perceived benefit from attending a multidisciplinary neuropathy clinic.

Background

Approximately 84% of U.S. healthcare dollars are spent on the care of patients with chronic disease conditions, but these individuals still report inadequate dissemination of education regarding their specific condition.

Nearly 50% of patients diagnosed with diabetes suffer from neuropathic symptoms.

More than 30% of cancer patients that received paclitaxel, docetaxel, oxaliplatin, and cisplatin suffer from chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN).

Methods

Design: descriptive, cross-sectional analysis that used both qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate the Neuropathy Clinic at CARE Tampa Bay program

Setting:

Eligibility: adult patients 18 years of age or older, who experienced neuropathy symptoms from any cause, and who attended the clinic for the first time

Sample: 17 participants were surveyed from a total of three consecutive clinic sessions

Instrument: a patient survey that included 13 multiple choice/write-in answer options was mailed to participants two weeks post-clinic

Data analysis: descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentages, and means were used to describe the sample, and results of multiple choice items/write-in questions were grouped by theme and described using frequencies and percentages

Results

CARE Tampa Bay

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Discussion

A multidisciplinary clinic promotes successful patient self-management of neuropathy and helps to fill the gaps in patient education.

Patients feel that they benefit from attending a clinic that involves education from several different disciplines in one session.

Future efforts should include approaches to increase the diversity of patients served, length of time spent at each educational session, and the potential for expanding clinic services to allow for follow-up visits.

Researchers should focus on evaluating patient related outcomes from multidisciplinary approaches to chronic disease management.

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