



Background

- Cancer and treatment plans associated with its management has the potential to impact a patient physically and psychologically.
- With the common complication being chronic pain, management can be challenging and at times suboptimal.
- Ketamine in subanesthetic dose is widely used phencyclidine derivative for the management of chronic pain when inadequate response to multimodal treatments such as opioid therapy occur.
- The Josie Robertson Surgery Center (JRSC) has established a ketamine infusion program to manage chronic pain in our cancer population.

Objective of Project

- To provide ketamine intravenous infusions for the management of chronic cancer pain in conjunction with opioid and/or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in a controlled setting of a perianesthesia unit; to acquire an extended period of pain relief.

Process of Implementation

- A core group of eight nurses were educated in to promote consistency and making changes readily.
- Education included the following:
 - Hands-on training of PCA pumps.
 - Electronic documentation in a computer training environment.
 - Review of the potential medication side effects.
 - How to navigate effectively the various healthcare technological systems utilized such monitoring devices, and secondary alarm systems.
 - Formulated workflow guidelines as a resource.
 - For new staff preceptorship a 2 day orientation was provided with a seasoned infusion nurse.
- Nurses use their perianesthesia clinical judgment through:
 - Following the titration order of the four-hour ketamine infusion in accordance with their level of sedation.
 - Determining usage of additional medications orders to minimize potential side effects.
 - Escalate concerns to pain management service in order to prevent potential critical events.
- Nursing competency for this program is accomplished by maintaining their BLS and ACLS certifications, evaluation of knowledge of moderate sedation through yearly examination and frequent re-evaluation of the workflow created to provide an efficient service.

Statement of Successful Practice

- Centered on patient's self-reporting of pain relief as evident by:
 - Vocalizing improvement in their quality of life through reduction of pain intensity.
 - Increase in their ability to perform ADLs.
 - Repeat infusions based on long-lasting effect.

Implication of Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

- Provides perianesthesia nurses with an autonomous role to translate their perianesthesia skills for an outpatient pain services.