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A result of questionnaire about COVID-19 and chemotherapy, for patients utilizing outpatient chemotherapy center

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Background: Japanese Red Cross Nagoya Daini Hospital provides medical care for COVID-19 as a designated type 1 medical institution for infectious diseases and provides safely anti-cancer drugs administration for cancer patients as a regional cancer treatment cooperation base hospital.

Purposes and methods: Purposes of this questionnaire are to identify the psychological aspects of cancer patients under COVID-19 pandemic, the evaluation of in-hospital countermeasures, and the points for improvement. We conducted a questionnaire to cancer patients receiving chemotherapy.

Objects: Two hundred and fifty-six patients who received chemotherapy at our outpatient chemotherapy center from August 14 to September 4, 2020.

Results: Of the 256 patients, 253 agreed to fill out this questionnaire. One hundred and thirty-one patients (51.8%) were worried about visiting a medical institution. One hundred and fifty-six ones (61.7%) were worried about cancer treatment. On the other hand, two hundred and thirty-four ones (92.5%) had never wanted to quit their treatment. Two hundred and twenty-seven ones (89.7%) evaluated the countermeasures against COVID-19 taken by our hospital and did not consider options other than our hospital. The main answers to the question "What kind of information and consideration did you want to receive from the medical staff?" were as follows; (1) Patients are exposed to many information through media, so medical staff just answer individual questions. (2) No special information and consideration are required. (3) Countermeasures and prevention for COVID-19 are a matter of personal awareness. Others, there were several answers that it was difficult to understand how the inhospital measures changed.

Discussion: About half of the patients continued to receive the cancer treatment with anxiety. We confirmed that patients receiving chemotherapy were highly conscious of infection prevention.

We will consider safer countermeasures based on these opinions.

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