

Covid-19 and Cancer Patients

In this book, I'll be discussing about what is covid-19 and how it has affected cancer patients' during Covid-19 pandemic. Also, there would be information about the guidelines which needs to be followed at the hospital and outside of hospital, what treatments are available, types of vaccines which can be taken for cancer patients' and how cancer patient can cope on the delays and what type of help they can get during the time of covid-19 pandemic.

CHAPTER 1 - WHAT IS COVID-19

Covid-19 is a contagious disease caused by severe respiratory syndrome. First case have been identified in Wuhun, China in December 2019. Covid-19 has since then spread worldwide and is a ongoing pandemic.

Covid-19 spread have been declared by WHO on January 2020 (Velavan & Meyer, 2020). In the UK, there are 10,070,841 total cases and 144,593 of total deaths so far (BBC News, 2021).

Covid-19 has been impacting on cancer patients. Patients who are living with cancer need to spent time on shielding because they are at higher risk if they be contacted with Covid-19. This has been declared by the WHO (Ueda & Martins, 2020).

CHAPTER 2 - HOW IT HAS AFFECTED CANCER PATIENTS AND WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES CANCER PATIENTS NEED TO FOLLOW?

CHAPTER 3 - TREATMENTS PLAN DURING COVID-19

When covid-19 have started, doctors have been struggling to give appropriate care for cancer patients'. There are many risks and there are some benefits for cancer treatments but there is a chance of getting infected of Covid-19 which led to fatal when they visit the hospital or other centres (Jindal, Sahu, Gaikazian, Siddiqui & Jaiyesimi, 2020).

There are some beneficial where doctors have decided to give patients tablets instead of drips, some appointments have been moved to another centre for check-ups if it's safe to do so as patients' need to be diagnosed, some face to face appointment have been moved to telephone appointments and some appointments have been delayed due to covid-19 (Cancer Research UK, 2020).

CHAPTER 4 - AVAILABLE TREATMENTS AND APPOINTMENT DURING COVID-19

CHAPTER 5 - PRIORITISING TREATMENTS

Doctors only can decide on patients treatments. There some treatments are more urgent than others. Some emergency situations or delaying treatments could lead to life threatening or it could damage long-term. But other situations, delaying won't make any difference as some patients have recovered or can go on medication until it's safe see patients face to face (Cancer Research UK, 2020).

There are guidelines are mandatory to follow as a precaution to detect signs and symptoms of covid-19 and personal protective equipment (PPE) should be in place (Al-Quteimate & Amer, 2020). Healthcare providers have been taking care to reduce the risks and they are making sure it's safe by asking patients to come alone for their appointments, offering appointments over the phone, delivering medicine to patients' home or collection can be made, wearing masks during hospital appointments, getting their temperature checked and social distancing would be on place (Cancer Research UK, 2020).

CHAPTER 6 - GUIDELINES AT HOSPITAL

CHAPTER 7- ISOLATION OR COVID-19 TESTING BEFORE FACE TO FACE APPOINTMENT

Hospitals has a specific guidelines in place to protect yourself and others from spreading Covid-19 during every appointments. Some hospitals will ask you to self-isolate before appointments or patients would asked to take a Covid 19 PCR test or home test kit before appointments (Queen Victoria Hospital, 2020).

Vaccine are used to help a person immune system and protect their body against the infection, but it depends on patient and the type of cancer they have. It also need to considered if patients' immune system are working properly. There are three types of vaccines which are available, there are Pfizer, Astra Zeneca - Oxford and Johnson and Johnson. For those who are at higher risk or over 40's can take the booster vaccine to stay protected during winter (American Cancer Society).

CHAPTER 8 - TYPE OF VACCINES

CHAPTER 9 - COPING WITH THE DELAYS

There have been many delays for cancer treatments due to covid-19 and treatments have been backlogged. This has made some patients' more anxious and worried about their condition. There are ways where patients can control this by changing diet, being physically active and looking after mental wellbeing (Macmillan Cancer Patient, 2020).

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Patients can get support by calling freephone helpline service which is 0808 800 4040. They are available from 9-5pm, Monday to Friday (Cancer Research UK, 2020).

CHAPTER 11 - RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 10 - COPING WITH DELAYS, HELP AND SUPPORT

Covid-19 have affected many cancer patients' and they should follow covid-19 guidelines and there are some urgent treatments can be carried out for patients. Some hospital have strict rules about self isolation and Covid-19 PCR test or home test kit before appointments. Some patients' can take the vaccine but speak to the doctors before doing this. Lastly, patients' should follow diet change, being active and looking after mental wellbeing. It's recommended for patients' to follow the guidelines and go to the free Helpline to get support which they need.

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