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Menyerlahkan Potensi
Membentuk Masa Hadapan



HASA INAUGURAL CHEMO PORT HANDLING WORKSHOP

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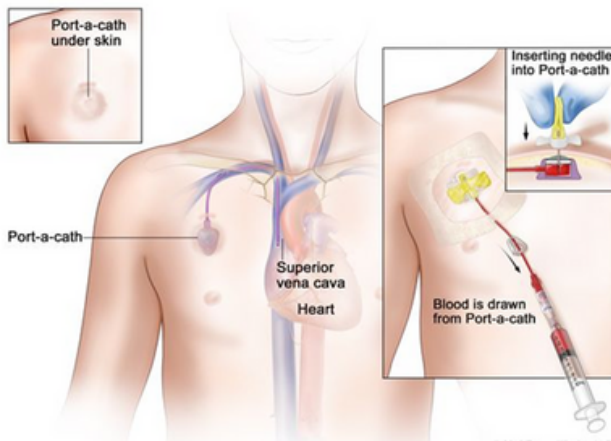


Figure 1: Chemo Port Location in Relation to Anatomical Location and Its Handling, courtesy of [cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/port](https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/port).

Introduction

Oncology patients require a long course of chemotherapy as the primary or recurrent treatment of their cancer. Administration of chemotherapy agents via peripheral venous access results in injury to the vein, pain, and eventual loss of vein functionality over time. Due to the need for long-term treatment, oncology patients in HASA are equipped with chemo ports for the purpose of oncology treatment administration.

Chemo port, also known as port-a-cath (Figure 1) is a small implantable device placed under the skin of the right chest. The device can also be used for drawing blood and administration of other intravenous treatments such as fluids and antibiotics. With great care and maintenance, the device may be utilized for years.

Indication for Organisation of the Workshop

Chemo port is primarily used at oncology daycare service. Patients present to the daycare service to receive the prescribed chemotherapy regime and are discharged home on the same day. However, there are occasional events when patients require inpatient treatment either because of chemotherapy complications or treatment of medical problems indirectly related to primary cancer diagnosis.

As the number of oncology patients increases, nursing staff from oncology daycare service is not able to cater for support of chemo port handling in the ward. In such conditions, staff in the ward are expected to have the knowledge and skill to properly use the device and maintain its longevity.

Event Organisation and Flow

The first chemo port handling workshop was successfully held at Bilik Persidangan 1, Level 2, Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah (HASA) on Friday, 6th September 2024.

The half-day course was organised by Nursing Department of HASA with the purpose of reducing or avoiding complications while using chemo port, and to fulfil MSQH 6th Edition Hospital Accreditation Standard 2021 requirement which was **Service Standard 9F: Clinical Services - Oncology Services (6.3.2 (CORE))**.

Fifteen staff nurses underwent a pre-test (Figure 2) followed by a series of short lectures. The topics covered were Chemo Port Indication and Insertion Procedure by Miss Nor Faezan Abdul Rashid from Surgery (4th left of lower row in Figure 3), Care and Maintenance of Chemo Port and Health Education for Patient Undergoing Chemotherapy by RN Nurafezza Aliah (4th right of lower row in Figure 3), Management of Cytotoxic Spillage by Miss Amira Nadzira Abdul Hamid (not in the picture) from Pharmacy, Management of Extravasation, Hypersensitivity and Allergy Reaction by RN Muhammad Arifin Abu Hasan (1st right on lower row in Figure 3) from Oncology.



Figure 2: Participants Undergoing Pre-test.



Figure 3: Organiser and Participants of Chemo Port Workshop taken place on 6th September 2024.

Practical Session

The workshop continued with hands-on session for chemo port needle insertion and flushing in, and administration of chemotherapy infusion with equipment sponsored by BD (Figure 4). During the session, the participants were able to experience simulation practice on the equipment before applying their knowledge and skill to the patient under their care.



Figure 4: Demonstration of Chemo Port Handling and the Instruments by BD Representative.

Conclusion

The workshop was concluded successfully with positive feedback received from the participants who represented the wards, Radiology Department, and Intensive Care Unit. The event will be rolled out in another 3 series which tentatively will take place on 4th October 2024, 8th November 2024, and 6th December 2024.