



Project Description and Site

- Educational tool for gaining insight on the cancer journey patients face from diagnosis through treatment and post treatment.
- Gained insight into occupational therapy's role in cancer care by obtaining the Cancer Rehabilitation Level 1 Badge demonstrating advanced knowledge within the cancer rehabilitation field.
- The student will take notes from the courses to create a journal on the process, treatment options, and occupational therapy's role along with possible intervention techniques.
- While here the student will observe the impact the cancer diagnosis has on the individual and family in all aspects, the impact of the programming, and plan a program for members to possibly participate in.
- Two programs created based on the needs present and suggestions/expressed interests from members at Gilda's Club
- This Project took place at the Gilda's Club of the Quad Cities, which allows individuals and their families to interact and attend events for free during their cancer journey.

Literature Review

- After treatment for cancer, many individuals experience physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive, and social changes/impairments which can disrupt functioning in daily occupations (Baxter et al., 2017; Hwang et al., 2015; Pendergrass et al., 2017; Pergolotti et al., 2016).
- Patients with cancer may encounter are increased fall risk, decreased muscle strength, lymphedema, cancer-related/chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, untraceable pain, and difficulty sleeping (Baxter et al., 2017; Pergolotti et al., 2017; Silver et al., 2013).
- Even though there is a multitude of areas impacted in patients with cancer that overlap with the services OTs provide, occupational therapy is underutilized in cancer care (Maher & Mendonca, 2018; Pergolotti et al., 2016).

Mission & Vision Statements

Mission

To gain an in-depth understating of occupational therapy's holistic approach in cancer care and integrate that information into treatment session ideas and evidence-based programs.

Vision

To gain insight on care for patients with cancer and empower the individuals through incorporating knowledge learned into treatment sessions ideas and programs.



Project Completion and Outcomes

1. Gained advanced knowledge in caring for patients with cancer through observation and interviews with Gilda's Club members, families or friends, and staff members at Gilda's Club and through creating the journal.
2. Created two programs members attended at the Gilda's Club. And online via Zoom and Facebook Live.
3. Obtained the Cancer Rehabilitation Level 1 Badge to gain advanced knowledge within cancer rehabilitation.



Future Implications for OT

OT inclusion in the Cancer Care Team:

- Improve Quality of Life
- Symptom Management
- Independence in ADLs
- Return to Work
- Healthy Lifestyle Changes
- Physical Activity Recommendations
- Relaxation Techniques
- Psychosocial Support
- Cognitive Retraining

Deliverables

1. A journal of information learned and collected through observation, interviews, and CEU coursework.
2. Two written up programs, created from the information gathered by student.
3. The application and attainment of the Cancer Rehabilitation Level 1 Badge to further education within the cancer rehabilitation field

Key References

Full reference list and image reference available upon request

