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Multidisciplinary (Nursing, Psychology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Oral Medicine, Social Services) The nurse's role at the bone marrow aplasia stage in patients submitted to hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

ALEXSANDRA RELEM PEREIRA* (HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS)

* PRESENTER

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Introduction: The hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is the intravenous infusion of hematopoietic progenitor cells aimed to restore bone marrow and immune function in patients with several malignant and nonmalignant disorders, inherited or acquired. During HSCT, diseased stem cells are treated with high-dose chemotherapy associated or not with total body irradiation (conditioning), aimed to reduce or eradicate the patient's underlying disease; to have more physical space within the bone marrow so that engraftment of donor cells (allogeneic), which may be related (family member) or unrelated (another individual) or the recipient's own progenitor cells (autologous) can occur, and cause severe immunosuppression in the recipient to prevent graft rejection. Objective: To describe the nurse's role at the bone marrow aplasia stage in patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Methodology: This is a report of a nurse's experience working at the protected environment unit in a public hospital in the South of the country, with patients submitted to Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. Results: The conditioning regimen that results in bone marrow aplasia is the most critical stage, as the patient is subject to hematological toxicities (anemia, neutropenia and thrombocytopenia) and, thus nursing care becomes extremely important for the detection of these complications. Conclusion: Consequently, nurses play an important role, because through their knowledge and careful evaluation, they lead the nursing staff and determine the best interventions for the patient at this critical time of bone marrow aplasia, aiming to prevent risks and minimize damage caused by bleeding and infections.

Keywords: transplantation, stem cell aplasia, nursing