

feature articles

61 Cancer during Pregnancy: When Mothering and Cancer Collide

NC
PD

Approximately 1 in 1,000 pregnancies are affected by pregnancy-associated cancer, (diagnosis of cancer during pregnancy or within one year of birth), of which one-fourth are diagnosed during pregnancy. In this study, 10 women who were diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy were interviewed twice during pregnancy and once within eight weeks postpartum about their experience. Nurses and other health care professionals can provide anticipatory guidance and skillful clinical care that recognizes the complexities of disrupted mothering expectations and intentions in those with cancer during pregnancy. Meeting these needs through tailored support, education, and interventions can balance pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care with cancer management.

Ashley D. Schmuke, PhD, RNC-OB, CNE

70 US Nurses' Practices on Maternal Position Changes during Labor

NC
PD

In this study, labor nurses in the United States were surveyed about their practice in using various positions and position changes during labor. Among 498 respondents, representing all regions of the country, 99% reported using maternal position changes during labor and 96% believed labor maneuvers are effective and improve outcomes. Nurses routinely reported using positional maneuvers for indications of slow labor progress, suspected occiput posterior, and suspected asynclitic fetal position. Approximately two-thirds of labor nurses using maneuvers included a circuit of positions (use of consecutive position changes in a specific order). Position changes are universally used by nurses during labor to support optimal maternal outcomes.

Erin K. Johnson, MD, Drew Hensel, MD, Rachel Paul, MPH, Adia Woodson, BS, RN, Jeannie C. Kelly, MD, MS, Antonina I. Frolova, MD, PhD, and Nandini Raghuraman, MD, MSCI

75 Comprehensive hands-on breastfeeding education for maternity nurses provided by hospitals is associated with higher exclusive breastmilk feeding rates during the birth hospitalization

SDC

A cross-sectional analysis of the 2022 Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey that includes hospitals' practices about breastfeeding, and patient education in US hospitals was conducted. Data from 1,994 of the 2,779 eligible US hospitals that responded to the mPINC survey were included in this analysis. The association of maternity nurse education provided by the hospital and the mediating

were studied to evaluate their relationship with exclusive breastmilk feeding. Based on the findings, hospitals should prioritize hands-on breastfeeding skills for nurses and breastfeeding education for mothers to increase exclusive breastfeeding rates.

Holiday H. Solly, BSN, RN, IBCLC, Ariel Kamen, BSN, RN, Lakshmi Markonda, BSN, MSN, Rebecca R. S. Clark, PhD, MSN, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC, FAAN, and Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAWHONN, FAAN

83 Beyond Birth: Maternal Mental Health Program after Traumatic Birth

An emergency or serious complication during labor and birth can be traumatic for the woman and her family. In this article, an innovative hospital-developed mental health program is described. A quality improvement project evolved into a permanent process to support women and families after a traumatic birth. Nurses hold a debriefing after the clinical event with the patient to ask about their experience and conduct an assessment via the Impact of Event Scale-Revised. Referrals are offered for further behavioral health services as needed. Two follow-up phone calls at 2 and 4 weeks postpartum are included. Most mothers (84%) found the program beneficial. They especially appreciated timely communication about the event from members of the health care team.

Courtney Sundin, DNP, RNC-OB, C-ONQS, NEA-BC, Laura Gomez, BSN, RNC-OB, Claire Thompson, BA, MS3, Jeannette T. Crenshaw, DNP, RN, LCCE, IBCLC, NEA-BC, FACCE, FAAN, and Richard E. Gilder, MS, RN-C

91 Screening for Postpartum Depression at 0 to 12 Month Pediatric Visits

Postpartum depression is common among new mothers, however after their initial postpartum visit, many new mothers will not see their midwife, nurse practitioner, or obstetrician again during the first year after birth. Newborn and infant pediatric visits are ideal times to screen for postpartum depression. In this project, a process to screen new mothers during their infant's pediatric visits was introduced in one pediatric clinical service. After initiation, during the project, 84% of new mothers were screened for postpartum depression and 100% of those that had a positive score for possible postpartum depression (25% of 112 new mothers) were given a referral to a behavioral health specialist in the health care system.

Rebecca Parizek, PhD, RN, CNL, Lindsay Bennett, DNP, FNP-BC, and Gail Brick, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

98 A Concept Analysis of Breastfeeding Support

Few families can meet the breastfeeding recommendations set by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Mothers require breastfeeding support immediately following birth and at points of contact in the postpartum months. Just as breastfeeding is multifactorial with numerous potential barriers, the concept of breastfeeding support is dynamic. This concept analysis clarified what constitutes breastfeeding support using the Walker and Avant approach. Breastfeeding support consists of an intervention, positive perception by the mother, and timeliness and effectiveness of implementation. For interventions to be received positively, they must be communicated sensitively, consistent with a mother's emotional needs. Clinicians can use these findings to support breastfeeding women and their families.

Anita Lugo, PhD, CPNP-PC, IBCLC, Jennifer Dean Durning, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, Kimberly K. Trout, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, and Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FAWHONN

ongoing columns

60 GUEST EDITORIAL

Putting the "Peer" Back in Peer Review

Kindness and helpful comments should be an important part of peer review, even if the recommendation is not to accept. Scientific integrity and rigor can be supported by being a colleague and acknowledging an aspect of the manuscript that is commendable while sharing your thoughts on how to make it better. In this editorial, Dr. Raposo, one of our 2025 MCN Editorial Fellows, shares his insightful strategies for effective encouraging peer review.

Nicholas Raposo, MPH, BSN, RNC-OB

106 WRITING AND RESEARCH TIPS FROM EXPERTS

The Write Connection: Why Scholars Thrive in Writing Groups

Writing groups can have many advantages for early career nurse scholars. Our writing and research expert in this issue of MCN is Dr. Mary Dawn Koenig. Dr. Koenig offers practical advice on how to develop a writing group and the numerous benefits.

Mary Dawn Koenig, PhD, RN, CNM, FACNM, FAWHONN, FAAN

108 HOT TOPICS IN MATERNITY NURSING

Update on Cervical Ripening and Induction and Augmentation of Labor

The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses has just published an updated clinical practice monograph on cervical ripening and labor induction and augmentation. Our maternity nursing expert, Dr. Bernstein, offers a summary of the updates to the 6th edition of the monograph and implications for nursing practice.

Samantha L. Bernstein, PhD, RNC-OB, IBCLC, FAWHONN

109 HOT TOPICS IN PEDIATRIC NURSING

NICU Nurse Workload and Missed Nursing Care

Dr. Heather Tubbs-Cooley and her colleagues have been studying missed nursing care in the neonatal intensive care unit for the last several years. Our pediatric nursing expert, Dr. Beal, reviews the most recent publication from this team on the effects of objective and subjective measures of nursing workload, including nurse to patient ratios, on missed nursing care in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Judy A. Beal, DNSc, RN, FNAP, FAAN

110 BREASTFEEDING

Improving the Landscape of Breastfeeding in the United States

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine just published an important report on breastfeeding in the United States. Our breastfeeding expert, Dr. Spatz, was one of the committee members that authored the report and provides a synopsis of the content and main recommendations.

Diane L. Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAWHONN, FAAN

111 GLOBAL HEALTH AND NURSING

WHO Labour Care Guide: Advancing Person-Centered Care

The WHO Labour Care Guide: Implementation Resource Package signals a transformative step in global maternal and newborn health. By uniting evidence, respect, and accountability, it offers a roadmap for delivering equitable, high-quality intrapartum care. Our global health and nursing expert, Dr. Pintye, covers the new guide and its benefits.

Jillian Pintye, RN, MPH, PhD, FAAN

112 TOWARD EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

Experts suggest how 6 research articles can be used in nursing practice.

Coordinated by Annie J. Rohan, PhD, RN, FAANP, FAAN
Comments by: Veritta Henderson, PhD, RN, C-EFM, REC-C, Lakshmi Prasanna Markonda, MSN, RN, and Bonnie Zapolin, MS, RNC, WHNP-BC

115 PERINATAL PATIENT SAFETY

Risks of Cannabis Use During Pregnancy and Lactation

A new clinical consensus has been published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists which adds to the growing body of evidence about risks of cannabis use. Our guest columnist, Bonnie Zapolin, offers a brief literature review, presents highlights of the consensus statement, and suggests how nurses can make sure pregnant women have enough information to make informed decisions about cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation.

Bonnie Zapolin, MS, RNC, WHNP-BC

MISSION STATEMENT

MCN: The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing's mission is to promote safe, high-quality nursing care based on the most current evidence, standards, and guidelines for nurses practicing in maternity, neonatal, midwifery, and pediatric specialties through dissemination of evidence-based, clinically relevant articles including research, practice, policy, quality improvement, and scholarly reviews. This peer-reviewed journal covers aspects of maternal, neonatal, and pediatric nursing care in the inpatient, outpatient, and community health settings.

MCN Information for Authors is available at www.mcnjournal.com, click on Journal Info.

When citing an article from this Journal in your CV or in a reference list, please use the Journal's complete name every time:

"MCN, The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing"