

Masters Degree Scholarship in Cancer Nursing

Principal Investigator: Jo L. Swart, BA

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Abstract

The diagnosis of cancer in a child is a life-altering experience and affects all of the family members. Children and family members experience affects related to death and dying, body or growth/developmental image changes, and life adjustments as they face cancers uncertainties. The family as a whole must be considered. Accurate information, physical, emotional and spiritual assistance is needed. Psycho-social interventions must begin at the diagnosis, through treatment, and into bereavement if death is the outcome. Early intervention reduces emotional distress and improves quality of life for both patient and family. Psycho-educational support and encouraging open communication are important in reducing anxiety and helping families to cope with the loved one's diagnosis, treatment and possible death.

Performance Site(s)

Indiana University School of Nursing
Indianapolis, Indiana

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