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Lung Cancer: The role of multidisciplinary teams in diagnosis and patient care-nursing, clinical pathology, and documentation

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Abstract---Background: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide, with an estimated 1.8 million deaths annually. Despite declining incidence and mortality rates due to smoking reduction, significant disparities in diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes persist. Advances in targeted therapies and multidisciplinary approaches, including the roles of nursing, clinical pathology, and detailed documentation, are pivotal in improving

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patient care and survival rates. **Aim:** This study investigates the epidemiology of lung cancer, its histologic classification, disparities in patient outcomes, and the critical role of multidisciplinary teams in diagnosis and management, with an emphasis on nursing care and clinical documentation. **Methods:** A comprehensive review of epidemiological data, clinical studies, and emerging therapeutic innovations was conducted. The role of multidisciplinary teams and the impact of histological and molecular classifications on patient care were explored. Special attention was given to documentation practices and nursing interventions to ensure holistic care. **Results:** Lung cancer survival rates remain low, with a 5-year overall survival of 19%. However, targeted therapies and immunotherapy demonstrate potential in extending survival for specific subgroups. Disparities in outcomes are evident, influenced by gender, race, socioeconomic status, and LGBTQ identity. Nursing care plans emphasizing symptom management and patient education, combined with rigorous documentation, enhance treatment outcomes and support multidisciplinary efforts. **Conclusion:** The integration of multidisciplinary teams, including nurses, pathologists, and clinicians, is essential for advancing lung cancer care. Targeted interventions addressing disparities, personalized treatments, and robust documentation are critical to improving patient outcomes. Future research should focus on the long-term efficacy of multidisciplinary approaches and innovations in treatment strategies.

Keywords---Lung cancer, multidisciplinary care, nursing interventions, clinical pathology, disparities, targeted therapy, documentation.

Introduction

Lung cancer ranks as the second most frequently diagnosed cancer and the primary cause of cancer-related mortality in the United States. While tobacco use remains the predominant risk factor, accounting for 80–90% of cases, numerous additional risk factors are also implicated in the pathogenesis of lung cancer. However, for individuals who have never smoked, causative risk factors remain limited. Notably, if categorized separately, lung cancer among never smokers would represent the 11th most common cancer and the 7th leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Despite minimal advancements in survival rates over recent decades, emerging technologies such as low-dose computed tomography (CT) for early detection and developments in targeted therapies and immunotherapy hold the potential to significantly reduce mortality rates and improve survival outcomes [1, 2].

Descriptive Epidemiology:

Incidence:

On a global scale, lung cancer has consistently been the most frequently diagnosed cancer for several decades [1, 2]. In 2018, an estimated 2.1 million new

lung cancer cases were reported, representing 12% of the global cancer burden [1, 2]. Among men, lung cancer remains the most prevalent cancer, with approximately 1.37 million new diagnoses in 2018, with the highest incidence rates observed in Micronesia (54.1 per 100,000), Polynesia (52.0 per 100,000), Central and Eastern Europe (49.3 per 100,000), and Eastern Asia (47.2 per 100,000). In women, incidence rates are generally lower, with over 725,000 new cases reported in 2018. Geographical differences in incidence rates between genders are attributed to historical variations in smoking behaviors. Among women, the highest incidence rates are recorded in North America (30.7 per 100,000), Northern Europe (26.9 per 100,000), and Western Europe (25.7 per 100,000). In the United States, lung cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer in men, following prostate cancer, and in women, following breast cancer [3, 4]. In 2019, approximately 228,150 new lung cancer cases were anticipated, with incidence rates of 71.3 per 100,000 in men and 52.3 per 100,000 in women. The incidence rate in men has been declining since the mid-1980s, while in women, the decline began in the mid-2000s due to sex-specific differences in smoking uptake and cessation. Over the past decade, incidence rates have decreased significantly, with a decline of nearly 3% per year in men and 1.5% per year in women from 2011 to 2015. Regionally, the Midwest, East, and South report higher lung cancer incidence, with the South exhibiting the highest rates for both genders.

Mortality:

Global mortality patterns for lung cancer largely align with its incidence due to the disease's poor prognosis and high fatality rate. Worldwide, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality in men and the second leading cause in women. In 2018, an estimated 1.8 million deaths were reported (1.2 million in men and 576,100 in women), accounting for 20% of cancer-related deaths globally [1, 2]. Gender-specific variations in geographic mortality patterns reflect historical smoking trends and the progression of the tobacco epidemic [2]. In the United States, lung cancer is the foremost cause of cancer-related death among both genders [3, 4]. In 2019, it was estimated to account for 142,670 deaths, representing 23.5% of all cancer-related deaths. Mortality rates were 51.6 per 100,000 in men and 34.4 per 100,000 in women. Reductions in smoking have led to a substantial decline in lung cancer mortality rates, with a 48% reduction observed in men since 1990 and a 23% reduction in women since 2002. Between 2012 and 2016, mortality rates declined by approximately 4% per year in men and 3% per year in women. Geographically, lung cancer mortality mirrors incidence patterns, with the highest rates recorded in the Southern United States.

Survival

Despite notable advances in survival outcomes for most cancer types in the United States, the 5-year survival rate for lung cancer has shown only marginal improvements. This is largely due to late-stage diagnoses, where survival rates remain critically low. The overall 5-year relative survival for all lung cancer types, including non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and small cell lung cancer (SCLC), stands at 19%. Survival is comparatively better for NSCLC at 23%, whereas it remains dire for SCLC at only 6% [3, 4]. Nevertheless, emerging targeted therapies

and immune checkpoint inhibitors have demonstrated the potential for durable, long-term survival in specific patient groups. These advancements signify a turning point, offering prospects for lung cancer to become curable in early stages and manageable as a chronic condition in advanced or metastatic cases.

Histologic Classification:

Lung cancer is broadly classified into two histologic types: NSCLC and SCLC. NSCLC constitutes 80% to 85% of lung cancers, comprising adenocarcinoma (40%), squamous cell carcinoma (25%–30%), and large cell carcinoma (10%–15%) [5–7]. Formerly, bronchioloalveolar carcinoma (BAC) was a distinct subgroup within adenocarcinomas; however, it has since been reclassified into adenocarcinoma in situ, minimally invasive adenocarcinoma, and invasive adenocarcinoma [8]. Less prevalent subtypes include adenosquamous carcinoma, pleomorphic sarcomatoid carcinoma, large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma, and carcinoid tumors. Adenocarcinoma has been the predominant subtype in women since the 1970s [8A]. Among men, adenocarcinoma incidence has been rising since the same period, surpassing squamous cell carcinoma by 1994. Meanwhile, squamous cell carcinoma rates have steadily declined since the early 1980s, likely due to the widespread adoption of filtered cigarettes. Filtered cigarettes promoted deeper inhalation, leading to adenocarcinomas with a more peripheral distribution, while earlier unfiltered cigarettes predominantly exposed the trachea and bronchus, resulting in higher rates of squamous cell carcinoma [9–11]. Additionally, changes in tobacco composition, including reduced nicotine and increased tobacco-specific nitrosamines, paradoxically escalated lung cancer risk [10, 11]. Beyond the traditional NSCLC and SCLC dichotomy, advancements in genomic profiling have introduced a molecular dimension to lung cancer classification. Tumors are now characterized by biomarkers and genetic alterations essential for their growth and survival, which can be exploited through targeted therapies or immune checkpoint inhibitors.

Key genetic alterations and their prevalence in NSCLC include:

- **EGFR mutations** (10%–35%)
- **KRAS mutations** (15%–25%)
- **FGFR1 amplifications** (20%)
- **PTEN mutations** (4%–8%)
- **DDR2 mutations** (~4%)
- **ALK rearrangements** (3%–7%)
- **HER2 mutations** (2%–4%)
- **MET amplifications** (2%–4%)
- **BRAF mutations** (1%–3%)
- **PIK3CA mutations** (1%–3%)
- **AKT1 mutations** (1%)
- **MEK1 mutations** (1%)
- **NRAS mutations** (1%)
- **RET rearrangements** (1%)
- **ROS1 rearrangements** (1%)

These genetic insights have transformed therapeutic approaches, providing a precision-based paradigm for the treatment of lung cancer [12–14].

Disparities in Lung Cancer Outcomes Males Versus Females

Although the terms "sex" and "gender" have been historically used interchangeably in medical research, they hold distinct definitions: sex pertains to biological and physiological characteristics, while gender reflects identity, behavior, or socially constructed roles. This distinction has yet to be fully explored in research on lung cancer disparities. Established variations in lung cancer incidence and mortality between males and females largely correspond to historical tobacco consumption patterns. A systematic review and meta-analysis conducted by O'Keeffe and colleagues [15] examined the sex-specific association of smoking with lung cancer risk through prospective cohort studies. By focusing on cohort studies, the analysis aimed to reduce biases common in case-control studies. Using data from 99 cohort studies involving over 7 million participants and 50,000 lung cancer cases, the study found no significant sex-specific differences in smoking-related lung cancer risk. The pooled adjusted relative risk of lung cancer was 6.99 for females and 7.33 for males, with no evidence of publication bias or variability across subgroups. The female-to-male relative risk ratios were 0.99, 1.11, and 0.94 for light, moderate, and heavy smoking, respectively. The authors noted that these estimates might underestimate the true relative risk for women due to later smoking uptake and lower intensity of use. In non-smoking populations, there is historical evidence [16–18] suggesting a higher risk, incidence, and mortality of lung cancer in females compared to males. However, a multi-institutional registry-based study of over 12,000 lung cancer patients [19] observed an increasing proportion of self-reported non-smokers among patients over time, irrespective of sex.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Significant racial and ethnic disparities in lung cancer incidence, mortality, and survival are well-documented and largely linked to socioeconomic inequalities that result in differential exposure to risk factors and barriers to high-quality healthcare. According to analyses by the American Cancer Society [4], lung cancer incidence is highest among non-Hispanic Black men (85.4 per 100,000), followed by non-Hispanic White men (74.3 per 100,000), and Hispanic men (39.2 per 100,000). Conversely, non-Hispanic Black women (49.2 per 100,000) and Hispanic women (24.6 per 100,000) have lower incidence rates compared to non-Hispanic White women (57.4 per 100,000). Similar trends extend to lung cancer mortality. Survival outcomes also differ by race. Non-Hispanic Black patients with lung cancer have a lower 5-year relative survival rate (16%) than non-Hispanic White patients (19%), with disparities noted for localized (52% vs. 56%) and regional disease (27% vs. 30%). However, survival rates for distant disease are similar (5% for both groups). Black patients are more frequently diagnosed with distant-stage disease (61%) compared to White patients (57%) and less often with localized disease (13% vs. 17%).

Socioeconomic Status

Socioeconomic status (SES) is a critical determinant of health, often assessed through education, income, and occupation. It influences lung cancer risk via

multiple pathways, including access to resources, exposure to physical and psychosocial stressors, and health-related behaviors. Lower SES is strongly associated with higher tobacco use, and cessation attempts are less successful among individuals with limited resources [20]. Studies indicate a significant association between SES and lung cancer mortality. Cancer mortality is 28% higher in impoverished counties compared to affluent ones, with a disparity exceeding 40% among men in poor counties [4]. A pooled analysis involving over 17,000 cases and 20,000 controls found that men and women with low SES had an 84% and 54% higher lung cancer risk, respectively, even after adjusting for smoking [21]. These findings underscore the necessity of understanding SES-related pathways to improve lung cancer prevention strategies.

LGBTQ Populations

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community represents a medically underserved population with unique lung cancer risks and outcomes. Limited but growing evidence suggests elevated lung cancer risks among LGBTQ individuals, partly due to higher smoking prevalence [33–35]. Studies linking SEER data with U.S. Census information [31] and the California Cancer Registry with the California Health Interview Survey [30] show that gay men have higher lung cancer incidence and mortality, while lesbian women have lower rates compared to the general population. Bisexual men exhibit lower incidence, whereas bisexual women have higher rates of lung cancer. Additional risk factors include human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, which disproportionately affects gay and bisexual individuals, who account for over 67% of all HIV diagnoses [36]. Lung cancer incidence among HIV-infected patients is significantly higher than in the general population [37]. These disparities highlight the need for targeted prevention and treatment strategies within the LGBTQ community.

Lung Cancer Risk Factors

The identified lung cancer risk factors, including established and putative contributors, are presented below in a synthesized discussion:

Summary of Risk Factors and Associated Magnitudes

Tobacco smoking is unequivocally associated with a 20-fold increased risk compared to never smokers, making it the most significant risk factor for lung cancer. Secondhand smoke exposure increases the risk by 25% to 28% relative to never smokers without such exposure. The risk associated with electronic cigarettes remains unknown at present. Other tobacco products such as cigars, pipes, and water pipes confer a 1.9- to 4.6-fold increased risk. The risk from smoked cannabis has not been definitively established. Environmental and occupational exposures like radon and asbestos are linked to a 14% to 29% and a 12% to 24% increased risk, respectively. Pre-existing health conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, pneumonia, *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, tuberculosis, and HIV contribute varying degrees of risk, ranging from a two-fold increase to as high as 76%.

Tobacco Smoking

Tobacco smoking remains the principal driver of lung cancer, transitioning the disease from rarity to prevalence during the 20th century as smoking habits escalated among both genders. The relative risk of developing lung cancer for smokers is approximately 20 times greater than that of lifetime non-smokers. Despite this, only 15% of smokers develop lung cancer, although tobacco smoking accounts for 80% to 90% of cases in the United States [3, 10, 38–42]. The carcinogenicity of tobacco smoke stems from its over 4,000 chemical constituents, including at least 69 confirmed carcinogens [40]. Smoking intensity and duration directly influence lung cancer risk, as established in various predictive models and tools [43–49].

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

Secondhand smoke (SHS), originating from burning tobacco products, exposes non-smokers to carcinogens such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, nitrosamines, and aromatic amines [50]. Efforts to mitigate SHS exposure have reduced its prevalence in the United States from 87.5% in 1988 to 25.2% by 2014, although exposure levels plateaued between 2011 and 2014 [50]. SHS exposure is causally linked to a 25% to 28% increased risk of lung cancer among lifetime non-smokers, as evidenced by meta-analyses and U.S. Surgeon General reports [52–54].

Electronic Cigarettes

Electronic nicotine delivery systems, known as e-cigarettes, are increasing in prevalence, particularly among youth. Although marketed as a potentially less harmful alternative to traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes emit vapors containing toxic carbonyl compounds such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde [55–69]. These compounds induce oxidative stress, leading to inflammation, cytotoxicity, and lung damage. While their long-term cancer risk remains unquantified, evidence indicates acute adverse effects on lung function [70–72].

Use of Other Tobacco Products

Alternative tobacco products, including cigars, pipes, and water pipes, are associated with elevated lung cancer risks, albeit lower than cigarette smoking. The risks for these products vary between 1.9- and 4.6-fold, depending on use frequency and product type [73–76]. Lower risk estimates may reflect reduced inhalation intensity compared to cigarette use; however, these products are not considered safe alternatives due to their inherent carcinogenic potential.

Cannabis

Although cannabis and marijuana are often used interchangeably, cannabis is a broad term encompassing cannabinoids, hemp, and marijuana, all derived from the *Cannabis sativa* plant [77]. Within the United States, cannabis is the second most commonly inhaled drug after tobacco, with an estimated 7,000 new users daily [78]. By early 2019, marijuana use had been legalized for medical purposes

in 30 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, while 20 states and the District of Columbia decriminalized the possession of small amounts for personal use [79]. However, smoked cannabis contains numerous harmful chemicals, including acetaldehyde, acrolein, ammonia, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, phenols, nitrosamines, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, similar to tobacco smoke [80]. Chronic smoking of marijuana has adverse respiratory effects comparable to cigarette smoking [81, 82]. Despite these biological risks, no definitive evidence links cannabis smoking to an increased risk of lung cancer. A pooled analysis by the International Lung Cancer Consortium, involving 2,159 lung cancer cases and 2,985 controls, found minimal evidence of an elevated lung cancer risk among habitual cannabis smokers [83]. Nonetheless, existing studies are constrained by limited sample sizes, self-reported data, and confounding factors, such as concurrent tobacco use. Marijuana use is particularly prevalent among youth in the United States, with annual usage rates ranging between 12% and 16% among adolescents aged 12 to 17 years from 2002 to 2014 [84]. Moreover, in recent years, fewer adolescents perceive moderate or regular marijuana use as a health risk [85, 86]. Given the widespread use of cannabis and its undefined association with lung cancer, further research is essential to clarify its potential risks.

Radon

While tobacco smoking remains the predominant risk factor for lung cancer, other environmental exposures also significantly contribute to lung cancer risk. Among these, radon—a colorless, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas—is a natural byproduct of thorium and uranium decay in soil. Radon exposure is universal but varies geographically worldwide and within the United States. Between 3% and 14% of global lung cancer cases are attributed to radon exposure, with the variation arising from geographic differences in radon levels and calculation methods [87]. In the United States, radon ranks as the second leading cause of lung cancer, accounting for approximately 21,000 deaths annually, or 13% of lung cancer-related fatalities [87, 88]. Meta-analyses reveal that indoor radon exposure is associated with a 14% to 29% elevated risk of developing lung cancer [89–91].

Occupational Exposures

Occupational carcinogen exposure accounts for approximately 5% to 10% of lung cancer cases, with asbestos historically being the most prevalent occupational risk factor [41, 88, 92]. Asbestos refers to a group of naturally occurring silicate minerals, including amphiboles (e.g., crocidolite and amosite) and chrysotile (a serpentine fiber). Despite its known risks, asbestos is still used commercially in some regions for applications like insulation, cement, and roofing [93]. The carcinogenic mechanisms of asbestos are complex and include oxidative stress, chronic inflammation, genetic and epigenetic changes, and cellular toxicity leading to fibrosis [94]. A meta-analysis of 14 case-control studies involving 17,705 lung cancer cases and 21,813 controls demonstrated that asbestos exposure increased lung cancer risk by 24% in men and 12% in women [95]. The combination of asbestos exposure and tobacco smoking significantly amplifies lung cancer risk and mortality [95–98]. Additionally, the International Agency for

Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies several occupational agents as “carcinogenic to humans” (Group 1) based on sufficient evidence linking them to lung cancer. These agents include arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, and diesel exhaust, as well as specific industries such as aluminum production, coal gasification, coke production, iron and steel foundries, and rubber manufacturing [99, 100].

Noninfectious Respiratory Diseases

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), comprising emphysema and chronic bronchitis, is an irreversible inflammatory condition causing fixed airway narrowing and alveolar destruction. The persistent inflammation and tissue remodeling associated with COPD are significant contributors to lung carcinogenesis. In 2015, more than 15 million Americans reported a COPD diagnosis, making it the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer [101]. Tobacco smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD, and a strong association exists between COPD and lung cancer. Meta-analyses have reported a two- to threefold increased lung cancer risk among individuals with COPD, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis. A pooled analysis by the International Lung Cancer Consortium identified a 2.44-fold elevated lung cancer risk associated with emphysema history. Asthma, a chronic inflammatory condition affecting 300 million individuals globally, is characterized by airway hyperreactivity, excessive mucus production, and airflow obstruction. Although asthma has been suspected as a lung cancer risk factor due to its inflammatory nature, its relationship with lung cancer remains debated. A 2012 pooled analysis of 16 studies within the International Lung Cancer Consortium indicated that the association between asthma and lung cancer was primarily observed within two years of asthma diagnosis and was more prominent in smokers, suggesting confounding factors. However, a 2017 meta-analysis involving 18 studies and over 16 million participants found asthma significantly associated with a 44% increased lung cancer risk overall and a 28% increased risk among never-smokers. Subgroup analyses also showed elevated risks among non-Hispanic Whites, Asians, males, and females.

Diagnosis of Lung Cancer

The diagnosis of lung cancer requires a systematic approach incorporating clinical evaluation, imaging studies, and histopathological confirmation. Initial assessment begins with a detailed patient history, focusing on risk factors such as smoking, occupational exposures, and family history of cancer. Symptoms like persistent cough, hemoptysis, unexplained weight loss, and dyspnea often prompt further investigation. Chest radiography is commonly the first-line imaging modality, followed by more advanced techniques like computed tomography (CT) scans, which offer detailed visualization of tumor size, location, and potential metastasis. Positron emission tomography (PET) scans can identify areas of increased metabolic activity indicative of malignancy. Histopathological diagnosis is critical, with tissue samples obtained via bronchoscopy, needle biopsy, or surgical excision. Molecular and genetic testing of tumor samples, such as EGFR, ALK, and KRAS mutations, plays a pivotal role in personalizing treatment strategies. Endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) and mediastinoscopy may be

employed to assess lymph node involvement. Lung cancer staging, based on the TNM (Tumor, Node, Metastasis) classification system, is essential for determining prognosis and treatment options. Early-stage disease may be confined to the lungs, while advanced stages often involve regional lymph nodes or distant metastases. Blood tests, including tumor markers like carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), provide adjunctive diagnostic information but lack specificity. Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation is essential for accurate staging, treatment planning, and predicting outcomes. Multidisciplinary collaboration ensures a thorough diagnostic process, paving the way for effective management and improved patient care outcomes [102].

Nursing Care Plan for Lung Cancer

A nursing care plan for lung cancer focuses on holistic management, addressing physical, psychological, and emotional needs. The primary goal is to optimize patient comfort, alleviate symptoms, and support treatment adherence.

- **Assessment:** Nurses begin with a thorough assessment of symptoms such as pain, dyspnea, fatigue, and psychological distress. Physical examinations and monitoring of vital signs, respiratory patterns, and oxygen saturation are integral.
- **Diagnosis:** Common nursing diagnoses for lung cancer patients include ineffective airway clearance, impaired gas exchange, acute or chronic pain, and anxiety related to illness and prognosis.
- **Planning:** Goals are individualized, such as improving breathing patterns, minimizing pain, enhancing mobility, and providing emotional support. Collaboration with interdisciplinary teams ensures comprehensive care.
- **Interventions:** Symptom management is a cornerstone of care. Oxygen therapy and bronchodilators may be used to improve respiratory function, while opioids and adjuvant analgesics are prescribed for pain relief. Nutritional support, physical therapy, and anti-emetics are essential for managing treatment side effects. Psychological support includes counseling, relaxation techniques, and family involvement. Patient education on medication adherence, symptom monitoring, and lifestyle modifications, such as smoking cessation, is critical.
- **Evaluation:** Nurses evaluate patient outcomes regularly, assessing for symptom relief, treatment adherence, and quality of life improvements. Reassessment ensures that care plans remain dynamic and patient-centered.
- Compassionate nursing care for lung cancer patients enhances their physical comfort, emotional resilience, and overall quality of life, fostering dignity throughout their care journey.

Documentation Process for Lung Cancer

Accurate and comprehensive documentation is crucial in managing lung cancer, ensuring effective communication among healthcare professionals, and supporting legal and ethical standards.

- **Initial Documentation:** Nurses begin by recording a detailed patient history, including smoking habits, environmental exposures, and family

history. Presenting symptoms, such as cough, weight loss, or fatigue, are documented alongside the patient's psychological and emotional state.

- **Diagnostic Records:** All diagnostic procedures, including imaging results (e.g., CT, PET scans), biopsy findings, and molecular testing outcomes, must be meticulously documented. Staging details based on the TNM classification and laboratory test results are essential components.
- **Treatment Documentation:** Records include comprehensive details of prescribed treatments, such as chemotherapy regimens, radiation therapy schedules, and surgical interventions. Medications, dosages, and potential adverse reactions are tracked, alongside supportive measures like pain management and oxygen therapy.
- **Nursing Notes:** Daily progress notes include assessments of respiratory status, pain levels, psychological well-being, and responses to interventions. Observations on patient mobility, nutritional intake, and treatment side effects are also recorded.
- **Patient Education and Interactions:** Documentation should reflect all educational efforts, including discussions on treatment plans, symptom management, and smoking cessation strategies. Family involvement and patient consent for procedures must be clearly noted.
- **Outcome Evaluation:** Regular updates on patient progress, symptom changes, and treatment effectiveness are essential. Any deviations from expected outcomes, along with corresponding adjustments to the care plan, are documented.

Precise documentation enhances continuity of care, facilitates decision-making, and serves as a critical resource for quality improvement and research initiatives in lung cancer management.

Conclusion

Lung cancer remains a formidable public health challenge, marked by high incidence and mortality rates. Despite ongoing efforts, survival outcomes are constrained by late-stage diagnoses and disparities across gender, race, socioeconomic status, and LGBTQ populations. Advances in histologic and molecular classifications, including EGFR mutations and ALK rearrangements, have paved the way for personalized treatment strategies, significantly improving outcomes for select patient groups. The role of multidisciplinary teams in lung cancer care cannot be overstated. Nurses, clinical pathologists, and physicians collaboratively contribute to early diagnosis, effective treatment, and comprehensive patient care. Nursing care plans tailored to manage symptoms, educate patients, and provide psychological support play a vital role in improving quality of life. Meanwhile, clinical documentation serves as a cornerstone for tracking disease progression, ensuring continuity of care, and enabling evidence-based interventions. Disparities in lung cancer outcomes underscore the urgent need for equitable healthcare strategies. Addressing socioeconomic and cultural barriers is critical to reducing incidence and mortality. Moreover, LGBTQ populations, often overlooked in cancer research, require targeted interventions to mitigate elevated risk factors, including high smoking prevalence and HIV-associated vulnerabilities. Looking ahead, the integration of innovative therapies, robust documentation, and inclusive healthcare policies will be crucial in

transforming lung cancer from a terminal illness to a manageable condition. Multidisciplinary care, underpinned by targeted research and patient-centered approaches, offers the best prospects for reducing the global burden of lung cancer. Collaborative efforts must continue to bridge gaps in care and advance survivorship outcomes for all patients.

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سرطان الرئة: دور الفرق متعددة التخصصات في التشخيص ورعاية المرضى - التمريض، علم الأمراض السريري، والتوثيق

الملخص:

الخلفية: يُعتبر سرطان الرئة السبب الرئيسي للوفيات المرتبطة بالسرطان على مستوى العالم، حيث يُقدر عدد الوفيات السنوية بحوالي 1.8 مليون حالة. وعلى الرغم من انخفاض معدلات الإصابة والوفيات نتيجة تقليل التدخين، لا تزال هناك فجوات كبيرة في التشخيص والعلاج ونتائج المرضى. تُعد التطورات في العلاجات المستهدفة والأساليب متعددة التخصصات، بما في ذلك أدوار التمريض وعلم الأمراض السريري والتوثيق المفصل، ذات أهمية كبيرة لتحسين رعاية المرضى ومعدلات البقاء على قيد الحياة.

الهدف: تستكشف هذه الدراسة علم الأوبئة لسرطان الرئة، وتصنيفه النسيجي، والتفاوتات في نتائج المرضى، والدور الحيوي للفرق متعددة التخصصات في التشخيص والإدارة، مع التركيز على الرعاية التمريضية والتوثيق السريري.

الطرق: تم إجراء مراجعة شاملة للبيانات الوبائية والدراسات السريرية والابتكارات العلاجية الناشئة. تم استكشاف دور الفرق متعددة التخصصات وتأثير التصنيفات النسيجية والجزيئية على رعاية المرضى. وتم إيلاء اهتمام خاص لممارسات التوثيق والتدخلات التمريضية لضمان تقديم رعاية شاملة.

النتائج: تظل معدلات البقاء على قيد الحياة لسرطان الرئة منخفضة، حيث يبلغ معدل البقاء على قيد الحياة لمدة خمس سنوات 19%. ومع ذلك، تُظهر العلاجات المستهدفة والعلاج المناهض إمكانية تمديد البقاء لفئات محددة. تظهر تفاوتات في النتائج تتأثر بالعوامل مثل النوع الاجتماعي والعرق والوضع الاجتماعي والاقتصادي والهوية الخاصة بمجتمع الميم. تُعزز خطط الرعاية التمريضية التي تركز على إدارة الأعراض وتعليم المرضى، إلى جانب التوثيق الدقيق، من نتائج العلاج وتدعم الجهود متعددة التخصصات.

الخلاصة: يُعد تكامل الفرق متعددة التخصصات، بما في ذلك الممرضين وأخصائي علم الأمراض والأطباء، أمرًا أساسيًا للنهوض برعاية سرطان الرئة. تُعد التدخلات المستهدفة لمعالجة التفاوتات والعلاجات الشخصية والتوثيق القوي عناصر حيوية لتحسين نتائج المرضى. يجب أن تركز الأبحاث المستقبلية على الفعالية طويلة الأمد للأساليب متعددة التخصصات والابتكارات في استراتيجيات العلاج.

الكلمات المفتاحية: سرطان الرئة، الرعاية متعددة التخصصات، التدخلات التمريضية، علم الأمراض السريري، التفاوتات، العلاج المستهدف، التوثيق.