

Patient Scenarios.

Pain Management.

Susan is a 25 year old married mother of two. She was diagnosed with cervical cancer after the birth of her two-year old son and underwent surgery and chemotherapy following his birth. Recently she has suffered terrible pain and has been diagnosed with bony secondaries. She has been referred to the hospice for management of intolerable pelvic pain.

George is 66 and was diagnosed two years ago with Mesothelioma. Following diagnosis he has parted from his wife and become estranged from his daughter and young grandchild. During his stay at the Hospice his medication has been changed and despite manipulations of analgesia George constantly complains of pain at no specific site. Pain tends to be migratory with variable intensity.

Trevor is a 49 year old man who has been living with primary kidney cancer for 4 years and has recently been diagnosed with spinal secondaries. At the hospice he has developed shooting pains down his left leg and at times is describing "fire like" discomfort.

Bowel Symptoms.

Jane is a 50 year old lady with ovarian cancer; she is suffering with constipation and reveals during conversation that she has been having terrible pains shooting up her rectum which she has been too embarrassed to discuss.

Jack, 45, has been treated for cancer of colon and undergone chemotherapy. He seeks advice in the community, complaining of feeling constipated and bloated, but passing offensive liquid stools.

John is a seventy year old man who had a colostomy for bowel cancer five years ago. Recently he was widowed and suffering with severe spasmodic pains, particularly after eating and is having to change his colostomy bag much more frequently.

Agitation

Diane is an 80 year old lady with Ca Breast and liver secondaries. Over night she has become increasingly restless and has developed a chesty rattle.

Mark is a 44 year old ex-smoker with carcinoma of the lung. He is anxious and gasping for breathe.

Margaret is a 72 year old lady with pancreatic cancer; she is on a syringe driver containing Morphine Sulphate to control her pain and is complaining of seeing birds and spiders in her room.

Communication Issues

Leah is a 22 year old Jewish young lady with leukaemia. She is admitted to the hospice for symptom management and psychosocial support. She reveals she is longing for a loving relationship and says she has never been in love.

Morris is a 45 year old man with end stage renal failure. His wife Sally feels unable to tell his daughters aged, 9 and 12, their father is dying and seeks advice and support from you.

Sally is 32 years old with three young daughters. She was diagnosed with primary liver cancer nine months ago and despite recent chemotherapy her disease is advancing. She was referred to the Hospice for palliative care early in the summer. All she wants to talk about is making this Christmas her best ever.

Ethical Issues

Maud is 73 and has suffered from multiple sclerosis for many years. Five years ago she had a PEG tube inserted as she could no longer swallow. She has asked to come into the Hospice and stop having her daily feeds.

Ronald is 78 and suffers from severe senile dementia. He is immobile, severely constipated and becoming increasingly agitated.

Maureen is a 60 year old lady with motor neurone disease. She has been admitted for symptom management of pain and nausea. Since admission she is constantly requesting that staff put her down and give her the lethal injection.