"When you know better ,you do better:"

V. Kabanovsky, MA.RN. , E. Gur, Prof.

Plastic surgery department, Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

Education and training program for the nursing staff in plastic surgery unit about treating breast cancer patients after breast reconstruction.

Background - Women with breast cancer that are going through reconstruction surgery, are being hospitalized in plastic surgery unit. Most of them went through difficult treatments, like chemotherapy and radiation. During the hospitalization, the medical and nursing staff deal with various issues that concern to cancer patients. Most of them suffer from physical pain and emotional distress manifested in lot of anxiety and fear from the disease.

Target – In order to give the oncology patients all kind of treatment they need , combining regular nursing work with mental and emotional help, we set up study group of the nursing staff in order to give them tools and deepen the knowledge in all matters related to emotional treatment

Process - The project managed by the head nurse of plastic surgery unit. Several meetings have been set up during the year. Other professional participated the meeting like social worker and psychologist of the unit. Each meeting raised a topic concerning emotional problems that happen during the hospitalization, and discussed about professional tools in order to reduce the emotional distress.

Results - All the nurses who participate in the program during the year, stated that all the subjects that were discussed in the meetings were very helpful and expanded their knowledge about cancer patients needs, and most important gave them more professional tools to treat better with more understanding about all the issues concerning cancer patients.

Conclusion - As a result of the success of the project, it was decided to continue it for another year and to expend it to additional oncology units in the hospital.