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The complex dual diagnosis of diabetes and cancer

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Abstract

Diabetes and cancer are two of the top three killers in the United States. As the number of people surviving cancer increases, more patients will be living with both cancer and diabetes. This integrative review of the literature will provide an overview of diabetes, cancer, and the complex interactions between the two. A literature review was conducted and three main areas were identified that warrant additional discussion, the relationship between glucocorticoids and hyperglycemia, glucose control in the management of diabetes in patients with cancer, and an increased risk of certain cancers with the comorbid condition of diabetes. The hope is that, through additional research, evidence-based practice guidelines can be developed to direct the care of these challenging comorbid conditions. To provide holistic care to patients, diabetes and cancer management must be incorporated into healthcare curricula and should be an essential part of clinical diabetes educator certification.

Biography

Crystal Stevens completed her Master of Science in Nursing, Adult Nurse Practitioner degree in 2007 from Washburn University in Topeka, KS. Her master's project was on the topic of the management of diabetes and cancer. She currently serves as an assistant faculty member at Washburn University. Her background includes acute care experience working in oncology and telemetry, and she is currently practicing as an APRN in two primary care clinic sites. She is also currently pursuing her Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

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