Nursing aspects on the transformation of cancer care in the Covid-19 pandemic, aspects of care and digital health

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AGENDA

• Examples of how we tried to adopt using digital health
  • What do we mean with digital health
  • What did we learn
  • Where are we now?
  • Challenges and thoughts on future
What is digital health?
(WHO, 2022)

- A broad umbrella term, including e-health, as well as areas under development; for example the fields of “big data”, genomics and artificial intelligence

- Plays an important role in strengthening health systems and public health, increasing equity in access to health services, and in working towards universal health coverage
What did we learn?

- Patients in general positive to digital health
- Video consultations excellent option!
- The challenge of symptom management….via telephone..
- There are systems in place – but not one system..
- Increasing equity in access to health services?
- Increasingly important in a highly specialized system (rare cancers etc.)
Transformation... or?

What did we already have?
- Electronic health records
- Possibility to report symptoms
- Possibility to chat with nurses
- Access to the electronic medical file by patients
- A national “safe” platform where patients may log in

What did we do?
- Implement a digital care plan, patients as co-creator
- Started using a “chat-function”
- Started using the possibility to have video meetings as an alternative to telephone.
- Piloted a platform to make second-opinion easier
Information booklet

Made in an e-version, with the possibility to tailor information and chat with the nurse.
Other examples

- Video consultations, patients logged on via mobile application with their unique personal identification number and a code
More examples..

- Piloted a tool for patients that sought a second-opinion
- Only 11% of the patients with Head & neck cancer were informed on the right to have a second opinion (data from population-based national survey)
  - The tool improved the process for the patients, administrative staff and nurses..
  - A safe system to transfer medical records and a “easy access” platform was designed; the patient wrote a referral on why and where in addition to the physicians referral
Evidence are supporting use of digital tools, but it is much more than the tool
For all?
Implementation takes time, the covid-19 pandemic “forced” us to start and adjust as we go
Policy-makers and other stakeholders should focus on national/international platforms to ease patient access
Health care professionals must get used to several platforms for a while
Focus on health care systems that integrate with those platforms
Huge opportunities to include PROM and PREM in daily care!
Thank you!

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