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Nurses' perspectives on hope in outpatient oncology patients: A concept analysis

After witnessing the role oncology nurses play in a patient's journey with cancer, I was inspired to go to college to study nursing and to work as an oncology nurse when I graduate. I spent the summer before my senior year and many weekends leading up to my graduation from nursing school working as a clinical assistant at a cancer institute in the Northeast. My experience at the cancer institute assisting the nurses and physicians and taking care of outpatient oncology patients led me to become fascinated with the concept of hope and how it impacts on the patients' prognoses. The Hybrid Model of concept analysis was used to guide my inquiry. After conducting a literature review on hope in oncology patients, I found that there was a lack of research that represented nurses' perspectives on this topic. I decided to conduct my own concept analysis on nurses' perspectives on hope in outpatient oncology patients by holding interviews with eight of the nurses I had worked alongside with at the cancer institute. Their perspectives on hope yielded valuable additions to the antecedents, attributes and consequences of hope identified in the literature. My hope is that this work is that it will serve as a resource for oncology nurses, regardless of whether they have been nurses for years or are just starting out like myself. Understanding the unique qualities of hope in outpatient oncology patients may enhance nurses' ability to foster hope for these patients as they are experiencing a time of life-altering changes.