

# 'IN THE PICTURE'

Supporting your care of the haemato-oncology patient who has neutropenia, anaemia and thrombocytopenia.



# Dissemination project participants

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# Background



- Cancer units in 2 acute hospitals - Epsom & St. Helier in south-east England
- Level 2 treatment for patients with haematological malignancies
- 2 day units & 2 wards



# Purpose of project

**Nurses in various clinical settings**

**Education**

**Ensure  
early  
detection**

**Minimise  
the risk**

**Deliver  
appropriate  
management**

**of haematological toxicities**



# Aims of the project

## **That attendees would be able to:**

- Identify the causes of anaemia, neutropenia and thrombocytopenia
- Recognise the signs and symptoms
- Outline the care and management of this patient group



# The project

## **A comprehensive education programme comprising of:**

- A series of interactive workshops each incorporating four hours direct contact time
- A teaching booklet
- Learning assessment tools:
  - a) Pre-course self evaluation questionnaire
  - b) post course assessment quiz



# Course attendees

- Nurses from the dedicated ward and day units
- Junior doctor
- Staff from
  - A & E
  - acute admissions
  - private patients ward
- Outpatient nurses
- Cancer research nurses



# The workshop



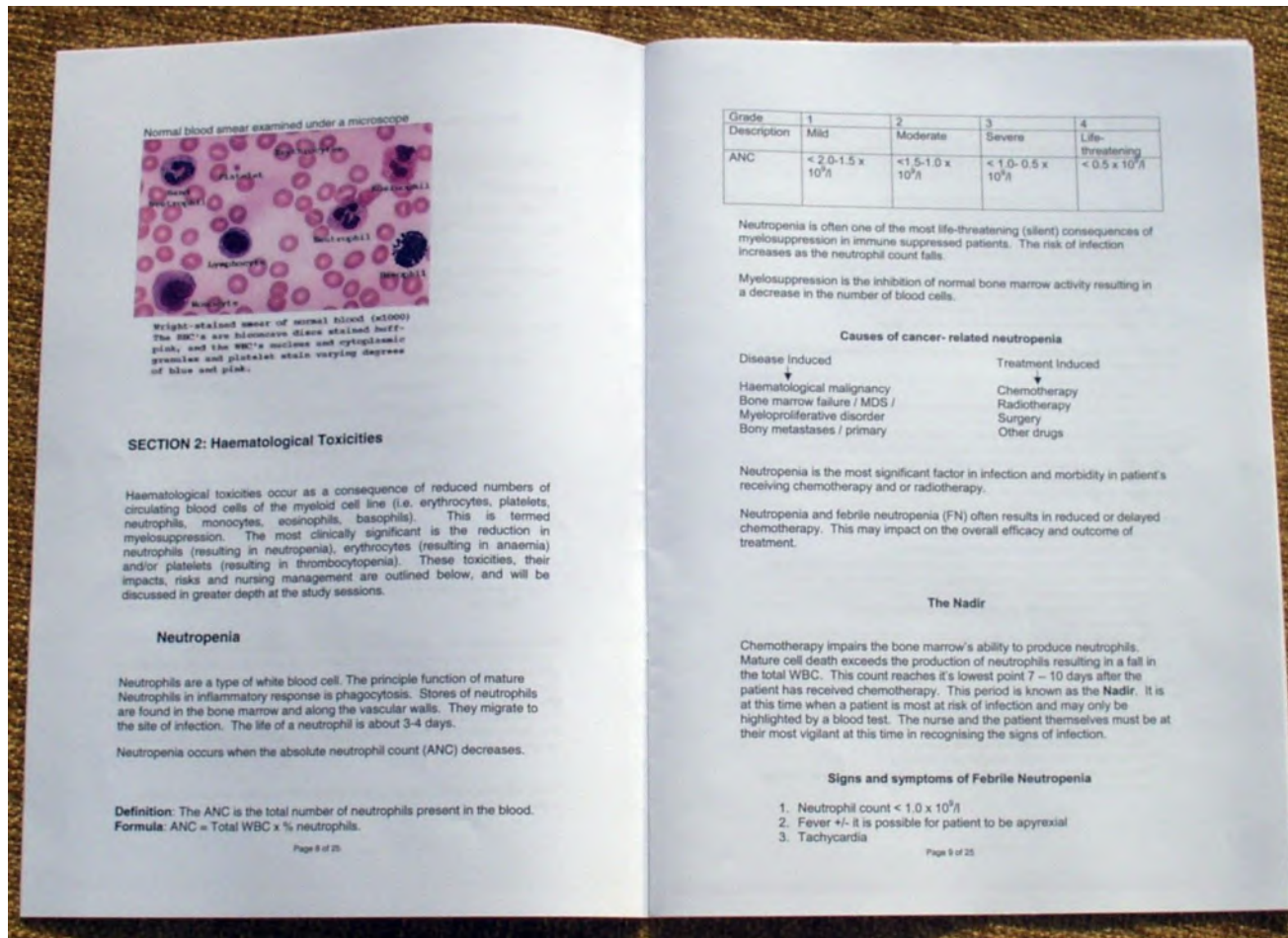
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# Content of teaching booklet

- Introduction
- SECTION 1 – The Structure and Functions of Blood
  - Haematopoiesis
  - Haematopoietic Growth Factors
  - The Cellular Components of Blood
  - Plasma
- SECTION 2: Haematological Toxicities
  - Neutropenia
  - Anaemia
  - Thrombocytopenia
- Appendix I Haematopoiesis Diagram
- Appendix II Antibiotic Protocol for Febrile Neutropenic Patients
- Appendix III Toxicity Grading for Myelosuppression
- Appendix IV Location of Haematopoiesis in the Skeletal System
- References



# The teaching booklet



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# Problems encountered

## **Practical**

- Time constraints
- Lack of administrative support
- Insufficient IT provision

## **Project itself**

- Ambitious - comprised of four components; workshops, teaching book, pre and post assessments and evaluation
- Complex - designed to meet educational needs of an array of staff



# Problems encountered

## **Additional issues**

- Local policies/practice - some cross site differences
- Resulted in a delay to other projects
- Motivating staff to attend



# Evaluation

## **Pre and post course assessment**

- Indicated a significant increase in knowledge

## **Evaluation forms**

- All perceived the information as at the right level
- All perceived the content to be relevant to their practice
- The majority found most of the information to be new to them!



# Outcome

- Collaborative working between the two nurse specialists
- Highlighted our role as a resource and point of contact
- Provided networking opportunities
- Facilitated team building
- Cascade effect - confident communication
- Raised awareness of both national and local policies and guidelines



# Conclusion

- Educational needs were met
- Well evaluated - level and content
- Highlighted other gaps in knowledge - which we hope to address in the near future
- Raised the profile of the Haemato-oncology CNS's



# Consequences of the project

## **Extend current education programme to include:**

- Twice yearly replication of the TITAN project
- Specific teaching on lymphomas, leukaemias and myelomas

## **Fast-tracked guidelines across the Trust on:**

- Growth factors
- A&E management of neutropenic sepsis



# A winner



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# A patient benefiting



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