Clinical Nursing Care for Transgender Patients With Cancer

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Transgender people often face barriers in their pursuit of receiving sensitive and informed health care, and many avoid preventive care and care for life-threatening conditions because of those obstacles. This article focuses on cancer care of the transgender patient, as well as ways that nurses and other providers can help to create a transgender-sensitive healthcare environment.

At a Glance
- Many impediments to health care for transgender people can lead to decreased screenings and increased cancer risks.
- Although limited, research on transgender community has concluded that malignancies related to hormone therapy are rare.
- Oncology nurses require essential skills and education to provide sensitive and informed care to transgender patients.

Background

Although transgender people, like others, require sensitive and informed health care, fear, discriminatory treatment, and other barriers often stand in their way of receiving it. Nurses are an integral part of creating a transgender-sensitive healthcare environment, but only limited information is available about this patient population. Enhancing oncology nurses' clinical skills when working within the transgender community will help to address health disparities and create welcoming environments.

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