

Interdisciplinary Haematology

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In haematology practice it is usual to attend calls from diverse clinical settings. Increasing specialization within health profession and a corresponding fragmentation of disciplinary knowledge is resulting in an inability to meet all the complex needs of patients. All these challenges are leading towards dependence and consultation with other specialties. This has given birth to 'interdisciplinary development' as an independent concept. Establishing a team, formulating rules, feedback acquisition, validity of consultation and many other related issues in this regard are forthcoming. Explicit ground rules for multi-professional development is an emerging concept, which is very much required in this era of evidence based medicine. Hopefully it will make medical practice more objective and holistic.

Haematology is the discipline with an established place in this chain. Almost all the specialties need repetitive consultations on diverse haematological issues. These can be related to diagnosis, management or advice to get a better haematological service from another more specialized setup. All this brings care and cure closer to the patient. It may appear as challenging for the traditional boundaries, but by enlarge a save suggestion is taken as a sigh of relief, helping in establishing diagnosis, finding out the pathophysiology of a haematological derangement in the course of a primarily non-haematological ailment or resolving other issues.

Concept analysis takes interdisciplinary development as a dynamic process involving two or more health professionals with complementary backgrounds and skills, sharing common health goals and exercising concerted physical and mental effort in assessing, planning, or evaluating patient care. This is accomplished through interdependent collaborations, open communication and shared decision - making. This in turn generates value-added patient, organizational and staff outcomes. This requires competence, patience, confidence and commitment.

All this is a two-way process. Pushes people out of their comfort zone, to stretch their own mind, read the mind and need of the other fellow, who is seeking consultation. It compels to keep skills up to date. Trust, mutual respect, reliability, commitment and support are some of the concurrent themes in this regard. This "team culture" includes the importance of informal relationships, opportunity to think out of box and camaraderie between colleagues.

Appropriate skill- mix, supportive team climate, individual characteristics, supporting interdisciplinary team work, clarity of vision, individual relationships, management structures and outcome of care are few of the requisite properties which are of help in this regard. Interventions designed to improve interdisciplinary team work tend to focus on specifics of team work activities or interdisciplinary consultations such as sharing of patients' files, case- conferencing approaches, etc. A systematic framework can be of help in this regard. The inimical conundrum in diagnosis and management of a disease, at times can be sort out through interdisciplinary consultations. These interdisciplinary interactions, either serendipitous experiences or formally planned, aided by reflection and a process of trying things out. Ultimately all this shapes and continually modify professional knowledge and practical wisdom. These interdisciplinary consultations either can give a new dimension or can be akin to joining the blocks together to complete the thought process. This, at the end, can be translated into less morbidity and mortality. These interdisciplinary deliberations, preemptively, can circumvent many untoward happenings; a stitch in time, saves nine.

Further Readings

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