Traditionally, patients have received chemotherapy education in the clinical setting during the first chemotherapy treatment. Nurses long have been aware that patients are anxious and overwhelmed on that first chemotherapy day and have noted a lack of retention of information. This article describes a prechemotherapy education project initiated at an urban cancer clinic in the midwestern United States. The project was created in an effort to alleviate some of the anxiety associated with the first chemotherapy experience.

Implementation of a Prechemotherapy Educational Intervention

At a Glance

✦ Educating patients prior to the first chemotherapy experience may help to improve their ability to cope.
✦ After a diagnosis of cancer, patients and families experience a significant need for information about treatment and side effects.
✦ Improved coping strategies may result from nurses meeting with patients and families in a quiet environment prior to the start of treatment.

Peggy E. Malone, RN, BS, OCN®, is a staff nurse in the Center for Cancer Care at OSF St. Anthony in Belvidere, IL. No financial relationships to disclose. (Submitted April 2006. Accepted for publication June 25, 2006.)