Experiences of Women With Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasia Treated With High-Dose Chemotherapy and Stem Cell Transplantation: A Qualitative Study

Kam Singh, RN, MSc, Clare Warnock, RN, MSc, Jane Ireson, MA, RN, Sarah Strickland, RN, BSc Hons, Delia Short, Michael J. Seckl, PhD, FRCP, and Barry W. Hancock, MD, FRCP

Women receiving high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplantation for gestational trophoblastic neoplasia (GTN) face unique challenges associated with a rare cancer diagnosis that requires arduous treatment and an uncertain outcome. The purpose of the study was to explore the experiences of women with GTN following high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplantation to understand their perspectives, priorities, and concerns.

Gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD) comprises a group of pregnancy-related tumors arising from the trophoblastic tissue, one of which is called a hydatidiform mole (complete or partial). The worldwide incidence of GTD varies considerably; in the United Kingdom, the incidence of GTD is about 1.5 per 1,000 live births, and the incidence in the United States is similar (Choi, Lee, Smith, & Kim, 2015). In most cases, GTD presents as a benign tumor, but malignant change occurs in about 15% of complete moles and in 0.5%–1% of partial moles (Choi, Lee, Smith, & Kim, 2015).