Cognitive Screening
Using the clock-drawing test to assess for preexisting deficits in older women diagnosed with breast cancer

Janine Overcash, PhD, GNP-BC, FAANP, and Maddy Perry, BSN, RN

BACKGROUND: Older women diagnosed with breast cancer may also have preexisting cognitive deficits.

OBJECTIVES: The aim of the current study is to describe errors on the clock-drawing test (CDT), which is used to screen for preexisting cognitive deficits in older women diagnosed with breast cancer.

METHODS: This descriptive study included a convenience sample of women aged 69 years or older with a diagnosis of breast cancer. The CDT was used to screen for cognitive deficits, such as size of the clock, graphic difficulties, stimulus-bound response, conceptual deficit, spatial and/or planning deficit, and perseveration. Data were analyzed by the Rouleau qualitative error analysis.

FINDINGS: Many older adult patients exhibit some abnormality on the CDT. Most abnormalities were spatial/planning difficulties. Cognitive screening should be included in the comprehensive assessment of older adults diagnosed with breast cancer to screen for preexisting cognitive limitations.

OBJECTIVES:

- Describe the demographic characteristics of older adult women diagnosed with breast cancer who underwent cognitive screening using the CDT.
- Describe the errors detected on the CDT in older adult patients with breast cancer.
- Characterize cognitive deficits by using Rouleau qualitative error analysis on the CDT.

Dementia
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2015) defines dementia as a group of cognitive disorders that consist of memory deficits, behavioral disabilities, and disturbance of executive function. The National Institute on Aging (2016a) defines dementia as a loss of cognitive functions regarding thinking, remembering, and reasoning. Dementia serves as a general term relating to the chronic, irreversible damage caused to cognitive...