

TEAMWORK IN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY MELANOMA GROUP

E.A. Scherer¹, Z.A.P. Scherer²

¹Neurosciences and Behavioral Sciences, Ribeirão Preto Medical School Hospital of the University of São Paulo, ²Psychiatric Nursing and Human Sciences, Ribeirão Preto College of Nursing, WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Research Development, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

Introduction: In the Multidisciplinary Melanoma Group (MMG) of Ribeirão Preto Medical School Hospital of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, physicians of different specialties (plastic surgery, dermatology, oncology, pathology and psychiatry) work in an integrated way and weekly provide care to outpatients with melanoma. They hold monthly meetings to: discuss administrative issues; update diagnoses, therapies and treatment protocols; discuss research projects, and bring members together.

Objectives: To present, based on a clinical case report, a reflection about the MMG's teamwork.

Aims: To understand the teamwork of different specialties physicians in providing care to people with melanoma.

Methods: Case report and reflection.

Results: Woman, 35 years-old, white, divorced, two sons (11 and 7 year-old). Primary melanoma operated 5 years before and inguinal metastases resected one month prior to the follow up at MMG. Psychiatric approach: tense, dissociated, with no knowledge about the illness' meaning, worried about the children. Adjuvant oncologic treatment and support psychotherapy were implemented. After few months, she complained of mild fever and fatigue that interfered in relationship with her children. With change in the adjuvant treatment protocol, patient's situation was discussed and, after risks and benefits evaluation, it was chosen to discontinue her treatment. Patient got closer to her children and more involved in psychotherapy and outpatient treatment.

Conclusion: The proper use of a uniform language, the definition of roles, clear communication and concern with the aim of taking care of people with melanoma in their clinical and emotional needs facilitate the adjustment and cohesion in the MMG.