Nursing Care of the Child with Cancer
Leukemia

- Abnormal proliferation of WBCs
- ↑ WBCs, ↓ RBCs and Platelets
- Fatigue, pallor, tachycardia, bleeding, fever, infection, poor wound healing
- CNS symptoms - headache, meningeal irritation, s/s ↑ ICP
Brain Tumors

- S/S related to the location of the tumor
- Ataxia
- Most common
  - Headache upon waking in the am
  - Projectile vomiting usually in the am
Pain Management/ Family Support

- Foster normal G&D
- Family Support
- Allow participation in care
- Assess for acute and chronic pain
Lymphomas

- Staged I-IV
- Arise from the lymphoid system
- Hodgkins vs. non Hodgkin's
- Spreads to spleen, liver, bone, lungs and mediastinum
Wilm’s Tumor

- Unilateral neoplasm of the kidney
- Usually diagnosed 2-3 years of age
- Abdominal mass, pain, hematuria, anorexia, HTN (↑ renin secretion from tumor)

DO NOT PALPATE ABDOMEN!
Oncologic Emergencies

- Acute Tumor Lysis Syndrome
- Hyperleukocytosis
- Infection/Sepsis
- Bleeding
Acute Tumor Lysis

- Rapid release of intracellular metabolites during initial induction treatment
- Hypercalcemia, hyperuricemia, hyperphosphatemia, hyperkalemia
- Change in LOC, lethargy, N/V, pruritis, flank pain, oliguria and tetany
- Tx: allopurinol, exchange transfusion
Hyperleukocytosis

- WBC count > 100,000
- Capillary obstruction, microinfarction, organ dysfunction
- Superior Vena Cava syndrome
  - Compression of mediastinal structures
- S/S
  - Cyanosis, respiratory distress, ataxia, change in LOC, visual disturbances, delirium
Septic Shock/Infection

- Assess for potential sites of entry
- No rectal temps
- Hand washing, good aseptic technique
- Minimal exposure to infected persons
- Immunizations UTD
  - VZIG administered w/ chicken pox exposure
- No live plants, flowers, uncooked fruits or veggies
Bleeding

- Monitor H/H, Platelet counts
- Minimize injections, good skin care, avoid rectal ulceration
- Avoid aspirin containing meds
- Adequate hydration/nutrition
- Monitor I&O, IVF’s
- Prevent Mucositis
  - Soft tooth brush, avoid drying of mouth