

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

Oral chemotherapy has emerged as a significant advancement in cancer treatment. It allows patients to take medications home rather than visit healthcare facilities for intravenous (IV) therapies. Despite its benefits, the effectiveness of oral chemotherapy is heavily reliant on patients' understanding and adherence to their treatment regimens (Huda et al., 2022). The increasing prevalence of cancer globally necessitates effective treatment strategies. According to the World Health Organization (2022), cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide, with an estimated 10 million deaths in 2020 alone. Oral chemotherapy represents a paradigm shift in cancer care, allowing for greater flexibility and potentially improving patients' quality of life. However, despite its advantages, the success of oral chemotherapy significantly depends on patients' understanding and adherence to their treatment regimen. Poor knowledge about oral chemotherapy can lead to non-adherence, incorrect handling, and reduced treatment efficacy, ultimately affecting patient outcomes and quality of life (Krikorian et al., 2019).

Several studies have shown gaps in patient education concerning oral chemotherapy. These include misconceptions that oral chemotherapy is safer than IV chemotherapy, leading to improper handling and disposal. Besides that, several studies reveal significant gaps in knowledge about the storage, handling, and disposal of oral chemotherapy drugs by both patients and pharmacists (Yang et al., 2022). Hence, adherence issues have also become a major challenge for healthcare professionals due to complexities in dosing, forgetfulness, distractions in daily life, side effects, and misunderstanding of instructions. Since oral chemotherapy is associated with new challenges, assessing patients' knowledge about this therapy is urgently necessary. Inadequate knowledge about medication schedules, side effects, and the importance of adherence can lead to poor health outcomes and

increased healthcare costs (Jacobs et al., 2019). Therefore, this research explores patients' knowledge level regarding oral chemotherapy and its implications for treatment success.

1.2 Objective

This study aims to assess chemotherapy patients' understanding level of the indication, potential side effects, and proper handling of Capecitabine and Imatinib at a private cancer hospital in Jakarta.

1.3 Hypothesis

This study hypothesizes that chemotherapy patients receiving Capecitabine or Imatinib have good knowledge regarding the drug indication, side effects, and appropriate handling, which may impact treatment outcomes and safety.