Dutch nurses hold successful second Post-EAU Meeting

2nd Post-EAU Meeting re-visits nursing issues discussed in Paris congress

For nurses the financial costs to attend an international conference are often difficult to find. Thus, a selection of the topics presented in Paris was prepared, and six Dutch nurses and a colleague from Belgium presented these topics. Both nurses and the presenters have carefully studied the topics assigned to them, taking care that they present the issues in the same way as they were presented by the original speakers, while at the same time highlighting points that are of relevance to Dutch nursing practices.

Belgium, which also has a sizeable number of Dutch-speaking nurses, was represented by Ronny Pieters. The other faculty members were Nina Dekkers, Hanny Cobussen, Natasha De Goey, Erik Van Muikelom and the author.

The topics covered ranged from the role of multimedia in hospital care to the prevention of urinary tract infection. All in all the meeting provided an ample and interesting coverage of the key contents of the scientific programme presented in Paris last February. Overall, the participants in Ede expressed satisfaction with the organisation and the content of the meeting, and they observed the clinical practice of stoma care at the NKI-AVL and the status of stoma self-care using the Stoma Education Scale. The working group observed the session and scored the status of stoma self-care using the Stoma Education Scale. After each session the team thoroughly briefed and informed in using the scale, which the working group performed several role-play scenarios. A team member acted as a patient with a stoma and another performed as a stoma care nurse during a session on changing a stoma appliance.

Arriving at the NKI-AVL we were welcomed by warm-hearted colleagues and staff leaders. We were immediately introduced to the activities of the NKI-AVL and the entire staff through a guided tour. Our Dutch colleagues also prepared lunch with Dutch specialties and flags which made us feel more welcomed.

For nurses who are unable to attend the annual conferences, the Post-EAU Meeting in the Netherlands is one example which has generated enthusiastic responses from participants.

For nursing groups interested in organising a similar post-EAU meeting, the EAU board is ready to provide the necessary support. For more information, contact the EAU Central Office in Arnhem, the Netherlands at eau@uroweb.org.

The Stichting Oncowijs organised last March 30 this year, in collaboration with the Dutch Association of Urology Nurses (Vereniging van Urologische zorgverleners) and the Nederlands Niercentrum, the care consists of highly specialised cancer treatment with the patients referred to the institute by specialists in other parts of the country. Thus, the NKI-AVL contributes to a unique synergy of scientific research and clinical practice supported by strong training and educational goals within a multidisciplinary setting.

Stoma self-care
Stoma self-care has been a priority topic in the EAUIN and we have developed focused and evidence-based standards and guidelines. With the publication of the EAUIN Guidelines on Incontinence Urostomy, which have been recognised by the National Clearinghouse in the United States in 2009, it has been documented that no tool is available to monitor the status of stoma self-care among patients with bladder cancer who had cystectomy. In Denmark such a tool (the Stoma Education Scale) has been developed and tested in a pilot study. The results of the pilot study were presented at the 2011 EAUIN Annual Meeting in Vienna, which showed the Stoma Education Scale to be generally convincing and robust in terms of context and construct validity. The research is a part of a Danish PhD study which is on-going at the Aarhus University hospital aiming to enhance rehabilitation in post-cystectomy patients.

With the EAUIN’s aim to foster links with other urology departments in Europe, the Bladder Team visited and observed the clinical practice of stoma care at the NKI-AVL, and to discuss the possibilities of implementing the AHSU Stoma Education Scale. Moreover, the Danish team aims to introduce to the Dutch stoma team the principles of a validation process encouraging them to start a pilot study that will evaluate the Stoma Education Scale in a Dutch population.

Our visit was carefully planned by clinical nurse specialist Mr. Willem De Blok and the Department of Urology in Amsterdam. The overall principles of stoma care were reiterated as indicated in the EAUIN Guidelines which provides the basis for a standardised and evidence-based stoma care. The Stoma Education Scale was translated into Dutch, with the translated text accepted or confirmed for accuracy by the Dutch stoma care nurses. Moreover, our team prepared and attended detailed hands-on workshops on stoma care and presentations concerning how to measure stoma self-care in daily clinical practice and its relevance in patient pathways.

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Our team carefully observed the daily clinical practice in the ward and the out-patient clinic. We also observed the Dutch approaches and followed the complete patient pathway related to cystectomy. The observations took place in the mornings and were followed up by lunch discussions with the Dutch staff regarding differences in clinical care, in general, and for stoma care in particular. With their careful preparation, we knew that the Dutch staff was highly motivated, impressing us with their enthusiasm and commitment to improve nursing care.