

Title: On the Application of Psycho-oncology in the Hospital Institution - Before and After.

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Summary: This paper reports on the changes occurred in the Hematology and Clinical Oncology Service (SHOC) after the ingression of a group of five intern psychologists in Psycho-oncology. **The experiment:** The SHOC is housed by a public hospital, Hospital Municipal Cardoso Fontes (HMCF), in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The patients typically served by SHOC are from the lower social stratum and from different regions of the city. They arrive with multiple personal needs that must be addressed by the health team: medical, psychological, social, nutritional, and spiritual. The Psycho-oncology service was introduced through an internship from a post-graduation specialization course in this field promoted by the Brazilian Psycho-oncology Society. The group was formed by 5 psychologists that performed an institutional assessment and proposed projects and interventions directed towards not only the patients, but also their families and the staff. After a one-year experience with SHOC, we have observed several transformations in the whole service. **Results:** The patients are now better assisted in their psychological needs, and show better participation in the treatment process. The Psycho-oncology service relieved the health team from one of their previous functions. The conditions to perform their primary functions have improved and, therefore, they can take better care of patients. **Current status:** today we are a multi-professional staff formed by 4 doctors, 2 nurses, 4 nursery assistants, 1 psycho-oncologist and 2 secretaries, along with a team of interns (7 psychologists and 1 physical therapist). **Conclusion:** In spite of the difficulties that exist in the public health system of a developing country, it is possible to structure a Psycho-oncology service by assembling a multi-professional team that offers a pioneering service that helps integrate patients, their families and the health team, while providing quality and comprehensive care.