

ORIGINAL PAPER**Short Screening for the Presence of Neuropathic Pain Component – What the Clinical Nurses Need to Know****Christos Kleisiaris, RN, MSc, PhD (c)**

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Abstract**Introduction:** The neuropathic pain in cancer patients is presented mainly due to degeneration of nerves and his detection it is an important factor in management of cancer pain.**Aim:** The purpose of the present study was to screen the frequency of neuropathic pain in cancer patients and to correlate it's relation to pain intensity.**Methods:** This convenience sampling study was conducted in the Pain Clinic of the Anesthesiology Department - University Hospital of Heraklion. We studied 50 cancer-outpatients in 3-month period (October - December 2012), using the pain-DETECT questionnaire for screening the presence of neuropathic pain. It is consisted two modules (a 10-point pain scale, 0-10), that assess the intensity of pain and 7 questions (Likert type) that address the quality of neuropathic pain taking into account the behavior and the radiation pattern of pain generating the final score that ranging (0-38). A score 19 and over indicates that neuropathic pain is present. The intensity of pain was recorded as a mean score of the 10-point pain scale. Chi square χ^2 (trend linear) and Kruskal Wallis tests were used to explore the relations among neuropathic pain, pain-related symptoms and pain intensity. P-values ≤ 0.05 was considered statistically significant using the SPSS version 20.0.**Results:** The mean age of the 50 studied patients (68% male and 32% female) was 65.1 ± 10.7 years. The mean score of the intensity of pain and the neuropathic pain were 6.3 ± 2.3 (range 0-10) and 16.7 ± 7.8 (range 0-38), respectively. The presence of neuropathic pain was significantly increased the intensity of pain ($p=0.043$) and the presence of pain-related symptoms ($p=0.043$).**Conclusion:** A screening for the presence of neuropathic pain is an important element in the management of cancer pain. Nurses should know the contribution of neuropathic pain in cancer pain in clinical practice.**Key words:** Neuropathic pain, pain intensity, cancer pain, clinic pain.