ATI: Video Case Study Palliative and Hospice Care

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How can the nurse ensure that a client receiving palliative/hospice care is comfortable? What are some ways that the nurse could provide for the psychosocial and spiritual comfort of the client?
-The nurse can avoid the patient's suffering while meeting their end-of-life care wishes. According to the nurse, pharmaceutical and non-pharmacological comfort measures should be given to the client. Standard comfort care includes posture, oxygen therapy, and other measures to reduce dyspnea. The patient may also receive relief through complementary and alternative therapies. Opioids can ease discomfort and aid with pain management. The nurse can address psychosocial and spiritual comfort by bringing energy therapies and a pastor or priest.

How can the nurse support the dying client's family/loved ones?
-The nurse can support the family by allowing the family to go through the grieving process. A sense of closure is provided to the family by including them in the caregiving process. Supporting the family as they go through the stages of sorrow.

What feelings occurred when interacting with a person with a life-limiting illness?
-Feelings of sadness occur, especially when a patient is young and has not lived their life to the fullest. During a life-limiting illness, it usually allows nurses to spend time with that patient until they pass away. Another familiar feeling was guilt because this student always wondered what else could be done for that patient.

Were the feelings or emotions adequately handled?
-Yes. Feelings and emotions are adequately handled by being aware of how someone feels and why they feel the way they do. It is also important to not blame and remember to accept his or her emotions as naturally and understandably as possible.

Was there adequate communication with the ill person?
-Yes. To ensure adequate communication with the ill person, ask for clarification and use straightforward, everyday language. Verify that the patient is aware of the health issue.

How did the person with the life-limiting illness feel during their interactions?
-The person felt loved and appreciated as someone transitioning. It is essential to make them feel loved and cared for. Talking to the patient about their life is another good thing to do. Patients enjoy reminiscing on the things that occurred in their younger years.

Could the interactions have been improved in any way? How?
-There is always room for improvement, such as speaking to the patient and asking them how they feel and if they are comfortable. Please enquire about the things they are going through. Gently reassure them that the caregiver is right here and that they are secure. Make promises to return if intended to. Speak the truth; tell them that you care, are praying for them, are thinking of them, and are happy they came to visit.