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Advancing Onconephrology: Insights From Mansoura Nephrology and Dialysis Unit Experience as a Model In African Healthcare

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Objectives : Onconephrology is an emerging subspecialty addressing the complex renal complications in cancer patients. Its rapid growth reflects the broader use of conditioning regimens, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, and novel yet potentially nephrotoxic therapies. This abstract explores our transformative experience in onconephrology, which not only reshaped the understanding of cancer care but also deepened our insights into the field of nephrology

Methods : A dedicated onconephrology clinic was established in 2021 at Mansoura Oncology Center, part of Mansoura University Hospitals. We adopted recommendations from Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation (2018). Basic patient records were revised, recorded in a designed sheet. Two nephrologists were committed to the clinic to build up the needed experience. Regular multidisciplinary reviews reinforced communication and experience-based approaches. Assessment tools included clinical examination, blood pressure monitoring, urine analysis, serum creatinine levels, renal ultrasound, and tailored follow-up for kidney injury.

Results : Solid malignancies accounted for 51.56% of all cases, led by breast cancer (21.2%) and bladder cancer (10.6%), while hematological cancers constituted 48.44%, with multiple myeloma and lymphoma each 38.7%. Of all patients, 46.6% developed acute kidney injury, and 48.2% had chronic kidney disease. Among stem cell transplant recipients, 41.67% experienced AKI, with 55.56% occurring before transplantation, 33.33% after, and 11.11% before and after. Notably, contrast-enhanced imaging procedures rose by 60% following proactive AKI management.

Conclusions : Many renal diseases in cancer patients are unique. Onconephrology remains guided primarily by clinical experience rather than standardized evidence. Our model demonstrates the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a dedicated onconephrology clinic in improving patient outcomes by strengthening collaboration between nephrologists and oncologists in patient evaluation, care, and follow-up. Establishing larger collaborative registries along with joint case-based discussions, is essential to refine best practices, strengthen onconephrology services, and encourage nephrologists—particularly those in smaller oncology centers—to initiate specialized care and share valuable clinical experiences across regions.