



5. Guidelines and Standards

Organization-based practice guidelines

American Society of Clinical Oncology does not have practice guidelines specifically for mucositis as of December 2004. It does have guidelines for use of chemotherapy and radiotherapy protectants, indicating that data are inadequate to recommend the use of amifostine for the prevention of radiation therapy induced mucositis. (www.asco.org/prof/pp/html/guide)

National Guideline Clearinghouse, the Nursing Outcomes Classification labels and definitions, and the Nursing Intervention Classification labels and definitions databases were searched. No specific guidelines were available that address mucositis in the patient receiving cancer therapy. (www.guideline.gov)

The Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC), in collaboration with the International Society for Oral Oncology, issued clinical practice guidelines in 2004 with suggestions for oral care based on review of literature published from 1966–May 2002.

Rubenstein, E.B., Peterson, D.E., Schubert, M., Keefe, D., McGuire, D., Epstein, J., et al. (2004). Clinical practice guidelines for the prevention and treatment of cancer therapy-induced oral and gastrointestinal mucositis. *Cancer*, 100(9, Suppl.), 2026 - 2046. [PubMed Abstract](#)

National Cancer Institute. (2005). Oral complications of chemotherapy and head/neck radiation (PDQ®). Retrieved June 7, 2005, from [Oral Complications of Chemotherapy and Head/Neck Radiation \(PDQ\)](#)

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) does not have practice guidelines for mucositis as of 2004. (www.nccn.org)

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research/National Oral Health Information Clearing House Web site has documents and related publications to guide practice. (www.nidcr.nih.gov/HealthInformation)

These guidelines address an interdisciplinary approach, the need for dental evaluation prior to treatment, and the patient/family education piece.

Oncology Nursing Society Guidelines:

Kelleher, L.O., Polovich, M., & White, J. (Eds.). (2005). *Chemotherapy and biotherapy guidelines and recommendations for practice*. Pittsburgh, PA: Oncology Nursing Society.

Assessment—use of standardized assessment tool

Collaborative management—use of MASCC guidelines

Oral care protocol, including patient education

Pretreatment dental evaluation, repair, and prevention

Nutrition and fluid management



Prevention of mucositis with 5-fluorouracil—use of 30 minutes of cryotherapy Treatment—symptom-focused interventions

The Joanna Briggs Institute for Evidence Based Nursing and Midwifery (www.joannabriggs.edu.au) published evidence-based practice information sheet on the prevention and treatment of oral mucositis in patients with cancer in 1998, but the review has not been updated and thus cannot be regarded current at this time.

Journal articles

McGuire, D.B., Rubenstein, E.B., & Peterson, D.E. (2004). Evidence-based guidelines for managing mucositis. *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*, 20, 59–66. [PubMed Abstract](#)

Stricker, C.T., & Sullivan, J. (2003). Evidence-based oncology oral care clinical practice guidelines: Development, implementation, and evaluation. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 7, 222–227. [PubMed Abstract](#)