

THE USE OF SPIKES PROTOCOL IN CANCER: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

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BACKGROUND: Amongst the reading list investigated for the preparation of this study, the SPIKES protocol was established, which highlights strategies for effective and appropriate communication, prepared by a renowned group of North American oncologists associated to the MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas, USA and Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Center in Toronto, Canada. This is a review which aims to evaluate the use of the SPIKES protocol in Oncology.

HYPOTHESIS: In this study, the underpinning question was: "What is the scientific knowledge produced about using SPIKES protocol in Oncology?".

METHODS: We selected articles written in English published in MEDLINE and CINAHL databases between 2005-2015, with the descriptors defined by the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH): cancer, neoplasms, and the uncontrolled descriptor: SPIKES protocol.

RESULTS: Six articles met the inclusion criteria and were fully analyzed; three thematic categories were established: aspects inherent to the health care professional; aspects related to the patient and aspects related to the protocol. The main effects of the SPIKES protocol can strengthen the links between health professionals and patients, and ensure the maintenance and quality of this relationship. The results indicate an important limiting factor for effective doctor-patient relationship; the lack of training provided to medical professionals for the communication of poor diagnoses, verified by the difficulty reported in this moment through interviews in the analyzed studies.