

POSITION SUMMARY

Oncology Nursing Society Position on the Use of Complementary, Alternative, and Integrative Therapies in Cancer Care

Complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies are healthcare systems, practices, and products not considered a part of conventional medicine. Complementary therapies are used concurrently with conventional medicine, alternative therapies are used in place of conventional medicine, and integrative therapies combine mainstream medical therapies with complementary or alternative therapies for which some high-quality scientific evidence of safety and efficacy exists. Oncology nurses may be caring for patients without knowledge of concurrent complementary, alternative, and/or integrative therapy use.

It is the position of the Oncology Nursing Society that routine assessment of use and close monitoring of patients using these therapies have the potential to enhance patient safety and promote integrative care.

This includes

- Nursing education that provides reliable information about the therapies
- Oncology nurses who are aware of complementary, alternative, and integrative therapies that could interfere with the outcome of other cancer treatments
- The establishment of evidence-based practice in these areas.

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