Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the incidence and severity of neuropathy in the clinical setting using a broad range of patient- and treatment-related factors as potential influencing factors. All patients with gynecologic cancer receiving chemotherapy in this clinic were included in the study, and multiple variables of hypothesized significance were recorded in a database. Analysis focused on any variables that increased or decreased patients’ reporting of neuropathy symptoms. The primary study objective was to identify factors related to patients’ experiences of this treatment side effect. Secondary objectives were to analyze the frequency of provider notations of neuropathy in the chart and to compare patient and provider reports of neuropathy. Patient reports were compared to treatment scores and providers’ notes to determine if there was a correlation between patients’ reports and provider documentation. Backward elimination with stepwise regression was used to determine the final model.

Implications for Nursing: Nurses must educate patients about symptoms of neuropathy and the need to report symptoms. Nurses must recognize patients at highest risk for neuropathy and advocate use of validated assessment tools.