



Elastomeric pumps are preferred by the patients, as they get them connected at the hospital or cancer centres, then go back home where they can have visits from the district nursing team” Shereen and Salman (2019).

Abstract:

Ambulatory chemotherapy offers many advantages from supporting a closer to home treatment approach to lowering the cost of care. Ambulatory devices such as elastomeric pumps can deliver prolonged infusions of a variety of chemotherapy agents. Elastomeric pumps are preferred by the patients, as they get them connected at the hospital or cancer centres, then go back home where they can have visits from the district nursing team. This minimises disruption to carers and families. Despite all the advantages, experiments carried out by the authors and others in the literature showed that the performance of these pumps varied depending on the temperature and/or viscosity of the diluent. Interestingly, a two-phase study that was carried out to observe and evaluate patients receiving ambulatory chemotherapy concluded that in 50% of the observed cases the infusion pump did not finish on time. This disrupted the patients’ treatment schedule and, in some cases, resulted in sub-therapeutic dosing.

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Reference:

Shereen, N.G. and Salman, D. (2019) Delivering chemotherapy at home: how much do we know? *British Journal of Community Nursing*. 24(10), p.482-484. doi: 10.12968/bjcn.2019.24.10.482.

