### Nursing Process Focus:
**Patients Receiving Cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune)**

#### Assessment
Prior to administration
- Assess for presence/history of organ transplant, grafting, active infection, and pregnancy.
- Assess for skin integrity, specifically look for lesions and skin color.
- Obtain blood work: complete blood count, electrolytes, and liver function.
- Obtain vital signs especially temperature and blood pressure.
- Assess patient’s drug history/allergy to determine possible sensitivity to polyoxyethylated castor oil.

#### Potential Nursing Diagnoses
- Risk for Infection, related to depressed immune response secondary to drug
- Risk for Injury, related to thrombocytopenia secondary to side effects of drug
- Deficient Knowledge, related to drug action and side effects

#### Planning: Patient Goals and Expected Outcomes
The patient will:
- Remain free of elevated temperature, unusual bleeding, sore throat, mouth ulcers, fatigue.
- Demonstrate compliance with all laboratory tests needed to monitor this medication.
- Demonstrate understanding of signs and symptoms of side effects related to medication.

#### Implementation
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| *Monitor renal function. (May cause nephrotoxicity. 75% of patients experience decreased urine flow due to physiological changes in the kidneys such as microcalcification and interstitial fibrosis.) | Advise patient:  
  - to keep good record of urine output.  
  - to report significant reduction in urine flow to the health care provider. |
| *Monitor liver function (due to an increased risk for liver toxicity.) | *Instruct the patient concerning the importance of regular blood work. |
| *Watch for signs and symptoms of infection. (There is an increased risk of infection.) | Instruct patient:  
  - in importance of good, frequent handwashing.  
  - to avoid crowds and anyone who has infection. |
| *Monitor vital signs especially temperature and blood pressure. (As a side effect of this medication especially related to those with kidney transplants, hypertension may occur in 10-15% of patients. Increased temperature may indicate infection.) | *Teach patients to monitor blood pressure and temperature ensuring proper use of home equipment and compliance with doctor’s appointments. |
| *Monitor for the following possible side effects | Advise patient: |
-effects: hirsuitism, leukopenia, gingival hyperplasia, gynecomastia, sinusitis and hyperkalemia.

- to see a dentist on a regular basis.
- to comply with regular laboratory assessments (complete blood count, electrolytes, and hormones levels.)

*Monitor nutritional status (due to possible weight gain.)

*Instruct patient in a healthy diet that avoids excessive fats and sugars.

**Evaluation of Outcome Criteria**

Evaluate the effectiveness of drug therapy by confirming that patient goals and expected outcomes have been met (see “Planning”).