

study of children with cancer, 42% had used alternative or complementary therapies simultaneously with or after conventional treatments (Fernandez, Pyesmany, and Stutzer, 1999). It is important that the use of any herbal or complementary therapy be noted in a preoperative assessment because of possible anesthesia or surgical complications related to herbal products (Flanagan, 2001) (see Critical Thinking Case Study box).

Critical Thinking Case Study

Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Maria, a 13-year-old Hispanic girl, has had severe nosebleeds. She is admitted to the hospital for a complete workup in an attempt to determine the cause. Her parents and grandparents have gathered around her bed. When you enter her room to begin admitting procedures, you notice an unusual scent. Maria's mother is rubbing the contents from an unfamiliar bottle of liquid on Maria. Meanwhile, the grandmother is rubbing Maria's head. She is startled at your entry and drops something on the floor near your feet. You bend over to pick it up and discover that it is a penny.

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence to draw any conclusions?
2. Assumptions: What are some underlying assumptions that may be drawn from the data about the following:
 - a. Complementary or alternative medical remedies
 - b. The role of ethnic or folk remedies in modern health care practice
 - c. The nurse's role in cases where alternative medicine is practiced (vs. traditional medicine)
3. What implications and priorities for nursing care can be drawn at