

Toolkit for Oncology Pharmacists

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First set of tools

- Education: PharmD or BS with clinically oriented MS (or post-BS PharmD)
- Residency: ASHP approved Residency in Oncology Pharmacy Practice
- Experience: Broad range of experience in Pharmacy
- Board Certification in Oncology Practice

Second set of tools

Understanding the challenge

- What is Cancer?
 - Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of useless tissue.
- What is the Public's perception of Cancer?
 - Patient dies.
 - Patient dies badly.
 - After being tortured by the (very expensive) treatment, patient dies badly.

Leading causes of death in 2007 were:

1. Diseases of heart (heart disease), 25.7%
 2. Malignant neoplasms (cancer), 23.5%
 3. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke), 5.6%
 4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases, 5.3%
 5. Accidents (unintentional injuries), 5.1%
 6. Alzheimer's disease, 3.1%
 7. Diabetes mellitus (diabetes), 3%
 8. Influenza and pneumonia, 2.2%
 9. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (kidney disease), 1.9%
- 47....TPB

"Causes" of Cancer

- Age
- Chemicals
- Genetics
- Microorganisms (viruses)
- Physical things
- Radiation
- Sex

Demographic Considerations

- Race
- Color
- Creed
- National Origin

Third set of tools

- Understanding the desired patient outcomes
 1. Cure – goes away never comes back
 2. Long term remission
 3. Short term remission (increasing the disease free interval)
 4. Stable disease
 5. Palliative treatment

Fourth set of tools

Treatment modalities

- Surgery
 - Used from the dawn of History
 - Mastectomy was used in Ancient Rome for breast cancer
 - If in doubt – cut it out!

■ Chemotherapy

- Ancient Egyptians use topical medicinal herb preparations for cancer treatment.
- Ibn Sina (Arabic name) aka Avicenna (Western name) used arsenic as chemotherapy in 11th Century.
- Modern Chemotherapy began with the Army in 1942
 - at Yale and in Boston.

■ Radiation

- Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered X-rays in 1895
 - within five years shown to shrink tumors.

- Hormonal Manipulation
- Immunotherapy
- Cryotherapy
- Other (many other)

Fifth set of tools

Pharmacists – Patient Relationship

- The Patient is the one with the disease.
- We must accept the patient the way they are not the way we would have them be.
- Patients with life-threatening diseases are not like you and me.

On Death and Dying*

- Five stages of death and dying.
 1. Denial
 2. Anger
 3. Bargaining
 4. Depression
 5. Acceptance

* Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, 1969

Primary Patient Concerns

- The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
 - Anorexia
 - Nausea & Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Hair loss

Primary Oncology Team Concerns

- Life threatening side effects
 - Neutropenia
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Specific side effects related to specific drugs that have a high degree of morbidity or mortality associated with their use.

Oncology Team Members

- Doctors (Oncologist/Hematologists and many other disciplines as needed)
- Nurses (Oncology nurses and many other disciplines as needed)
- Pharmacists (Oncology Pharmacists and many other disciplines as needed)
- Technicians (of many types)

Oncology Team Members

- What do the Oncology Team Members need most to provide optimal care?

Information!

Patients

What do patients and their significant others/caregivers need most to assist in providing optimal care?

Information!

Accurate information given and reinforced.

No Excuses!

- There is no excuse for withholding information from the patient.
- There is no excuse for starving the patient.
- There is no excuse for bad pain management.