

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CANCER CENTERS

Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers: EFFECTIVE PRACTICES SPOTLIGHT COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

When multidisciplinary care team members from Community Health Network MD Anderson Cancer Center and three external dermatology, dermatologic surgery, and primary care practices came together to participate in the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers Visiting Experts Program, the mission was clear; through an interactive, virtual workshop, participants would explore effective practices for supporting, treating, and managing patients with advanced non-melanoma skin cancers and create an action plan to address and overcome current barriers to care.

This spotlight highlights Community MD Anderson Cancer Center's lessons learned and planned approaches to improving multidisciplinary care for patients diagnosed with advanced basal cell carcinoma, cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, and Merkel cell carcinoma.

Caring for Patients with Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers

Community MD Anderson provides care to patients from diverse socio-economic, racial, ethnic, and health literacy backgrounds at five cancer centers strategically located across Indianapolis and central Indiana. Community MD Anderson Cancer Center maintains an established melanoma tumor board with the option to submit advanced non-melanoma skin cancer cases, and in the past year, has treated 30 patients with advanced non-melanoma skin cancer.

Community MD Anderson Cancer Center works closely with several dermatology groups, including Mohs surgeons and plastic surgery groups dedicated to the coordination of the referral, treatment, and care of patients with advanced non-melanoma skin cancer. For this workshop, Community MD Anderson Cancer Center collaborated with Dawes Fretzin Dermatology, Inc., Klapper Eyelid & Facial Plastic Surgery, and Parkview Health.

Communication is Key

The January 25, 2022 workshop provided a platform for experts to discuss complex non-melanoma skin cancer case studies and exchange opinions in real-time. One such case involved a patient with basal cell carcinoma, which had recurred in the orbit. Sumeet Bhatia, MD, MBBS, a Community MD Anderson oncologist, and Stephen R. Klapper, MD, FACS, an external ophthalmologist, highlighted the case with participants and faculty to discuss potential treatment options, including a neoadjuvant approach with a hedgehog inhibitor; the primary goal was to preserve the patient's vision. The dialogue explored previous discussions on a potential multidisciplinary approach, as well as timely referral and scheduling for the patient to meet with Dr. Bhatia.

Other issues explored included:

- Consideration of routine labs, staging, and surveillance scans (or exams with photography) if hedgehog inhibitors are initiated outside of medical oncology
- Early referral to medical oncology for possible immunotherapy, given limited progression free survival seen with small molecule inhibitors (if patient is stable on a hedgehog inhibitor pathway)
- The role of chemotherapy when treating Merkel cell carcinoma tumors
- The role of gene expression profiles in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma staging and treatment
- The role of both radiation therapy and adjuvant therapies for gross residual cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, following aggressive resection and complex reconstruction
- Concurrent operations between Mohs, reconstruction, and resection
- The importance of having a close relationship with the dermatopathologist/pathologist to ensure reporting of high-risk features
- How to use multidisciplinary tumor boards to review cases and discuss patients who have high-risk features.

Discussions were led by Visiting Experts faculty Sunandana Chandra, MD, MS, associate professor, Hematology and Oncology, Northwestern University; Carlo Contreras, MD, associate professor, Surgical Oncology, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; and Emily Smith, MD, clinical associate professor, Pathology and Dermatology, University of Michigan - Michigan Medicine.

From Opportunities to Action

One of Community MD Anderson Cancer Center's key goals was to improve the process of identifying patients who are at high-risk for advanced non-melanoma skin cancers.

To achieve this goal, Community MD Anderson outlined the following initiatives:

1. Create a list of dermatology high-risk scenarios
2. Create a contact list for general practitioners to facilitate contact with dermatology experts in high-risk scenarios
3. Monitor the number of high-risk patients coming through practice
4. Evaluate the length of time for high-risk patients to see dermatology after referral (i.e., number of days).

After a three-month period, Community MD Anderson Cancer Center reported continued work internally on the list of high-risk scenarios and other initiatives. Community MD Anderson noted additional progress was slowed due to staffing changes; however, they remain committed to improving care for patients with advanced non-melanoma skin cancers.

Quick Tips From the Experts

For cancer programs and practices seeking to improve care for patients with advanced non-melanoma skin cancers, the Visiting Experts' faculty suggest:

- Scheduling concurrent operations between Mohs, reconstruction, and resection when possible
- Communicating with referring providers regarding patients who have been treated for non-melanoma skin cancers and are immunosuppressed
- Maintaining a close relationship with the dermatopathologist or pathologist to ensure reporting of high-risk features
- Leveraging multidisciplinary tumor boards to review cases and discuss patients who have high-risk features.

About the ACCC Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers Visiting Experts Program

ACCC delivered its Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers Visiting Experts Program to three cancer programs in 2022: Community MD Anderson Cancer Center, Inova Schar Cancer Institute, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The goal of this program is to educate multidisciplinary providers through interactive, virtual discussions on effective practices for supporting, treating, and managing patients with advanced non-melanoma skin cancer; support cancer programs in identifying barriers to care for this patient population and addressing them through a tailored action plan; and educate the broader oncology community about advanced non-melanoma skin cancers.

In partnership with Skin Cancer Education and Research Foundation, Cancer Support Community, and CancerCare. This project is sponsored by Regeneron and Sanofi.

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A publication from the ACCC education program, "Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Care." Learn more at acc-cancer.org/advanced-NMSC.

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) is the leading education and advocacy organization for the cancer care community. For more information, visit acc-cancer.org.

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