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# Case Study Discussions on the Nurse's Role in Caring for Patients With Hematologic Malignancies

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# Welcome and Overview

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The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

[www.LLS.org/CE](http://www.LLS.org/CE)

2

## Faculty Disclosures

- Beth Finley, RN, BSNc, OCN
- Lynn Rich, ANP-BC, OCN

Have no affiliations with commercial interests to disclose

3

Case Study Discussions on the Nurse's Role in  
Caring for Patients With Hematologic Malignancies



# Multiple Myeloma: Case Study

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*Primary Nurse*

Moffitt Cancer Center

Tampa, FL

4

## Outline

- Understanding the Disease
  - Staging systems
  - Response criteria
- Case Study
- Treatment Strategy
  - Transplant vs non-transplant candidate
- Treatment Options
  - Newly diagnosed
- Nursing Considerations for Myeloma Patients
  - Bone health
  - Kidney health
  - Anemia
  - Preventing complications
- Multidisciplinary Team
  - Social worker
  - Physical and occupational therapist
    - Financial assistance

5

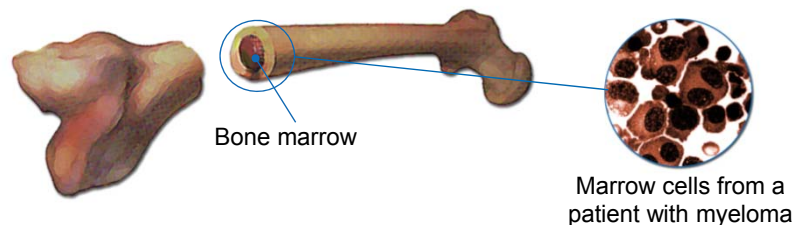
## What Is Myeloma?

### Cancer of plasma cells

- An uncontrolled growth of plasma cells

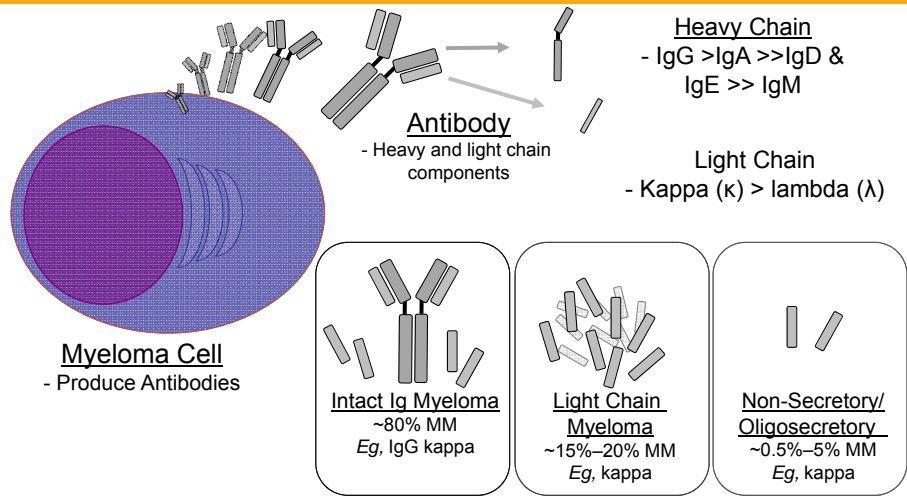
### Myeloma begins in the bone marrow

- Spongy tissue found in the center of bones



6

## “M-spike” – Monoclonal Paraproteins



Ig, immunoglobulin; MM, multiple myeloma.

7

## Diagnosing Myeloma



8

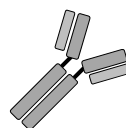
## Diagnosis: “CRAB” Criteria

### Presentation:

- Hypercalcemia (C)
- Renal Failure (R)
- Anemia (A)
  - Fatigue
- Fractures (B)
  - Bone pain
- Infections (I)



Ca<sup>++</sup>



Durie BG, et al. *Leukemia*. 2006;20(9):1467–1473.

9

## Lytic Lesions



10

## Durie-Salmon Staging System

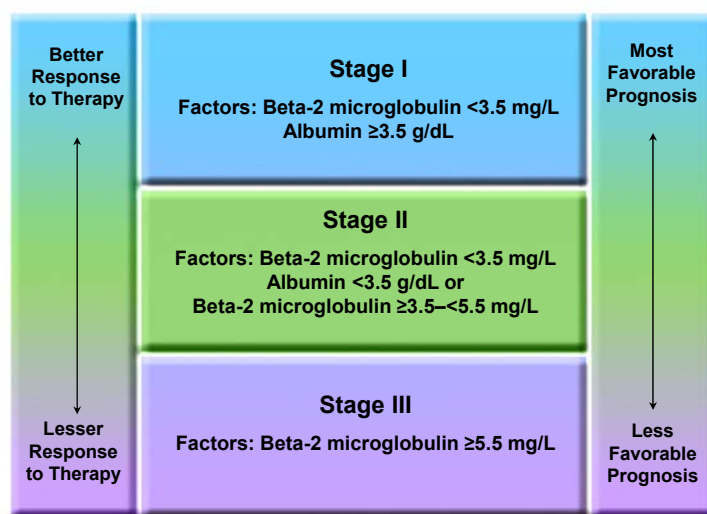
<b>Stage I</b>	<p><i>All of the following:</i>  Hemoglobin &gt;10 g/dL  Serum calcium normal (&lt;12 mg/dL)  Bone X-ray normal or solitary bone plasmacytoma only  Low M-protein production (IgG &lt;5 g/dL; IgA &lt;3 g/dL)  Bence-Jones protein &lt;4 g/24 hours</p>
<b>Stage II</b>	Fitting neither stage I nor III
<b>Stage III</b>	<p><i>One or more of the following:</i>  Hemoglobin &lt;8.5 g/dL  Serum calcium &gt;12 mg/dL  Advanced lytic bone lesions  High M-protein production rates (IgG &gt;7 g/dL; IgA &gt;5 g/dL;  Bence-Jones protein &gt;12 g/24 hours)</p>
<p>Durie-Salmon sub classifications (either A or B)  A: Relatively normal renal function (serum creatinine value &lt;2.0 mg/dL)  B: Abnormal renal function (serum creatinine value =2.0 mg/dL)</p>	

Ig, immunoglobulin.

Durie BG, et al. *Cancer*. 1975;36(3):842-854.

11

## International Staging System (ISS)



Greipp PR, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2005;23(15):3412-3420.

12

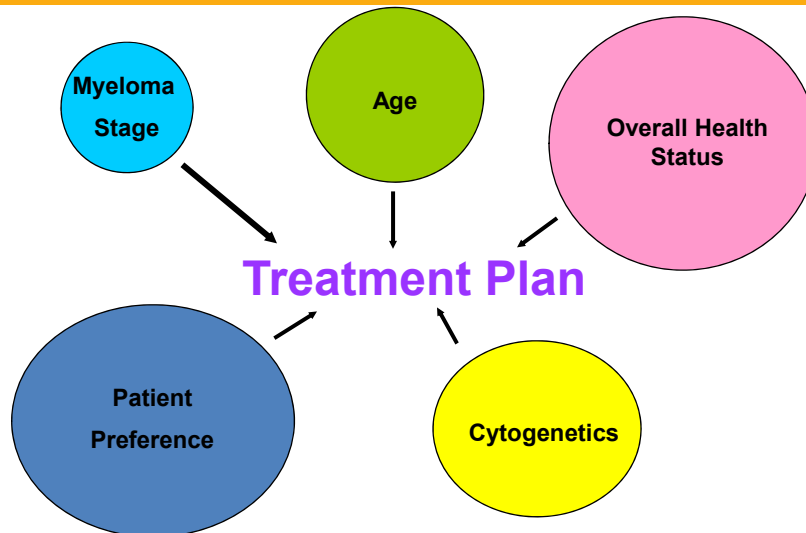
## MM Risk Stratification

High Risk (25%)	Standard or Good Risk (75%)
<b>t(4;14) by FISH</b> <b>t(14;16) or t(14;20) by FISH</b> <b>Deletion 17q13 by FISH</b> <b>Deletion 13 by metaphase analysis</b> <b>Aneuploidy by metaphase analysis</b> <b>Plasma cell labeling index &gt;3.0</b> <b>Beta-2 microglobulin &gt;5.5</b> <b>High-risk MyPRS™</b>	<b>Hyperdiploidy</b> <b>t(11;14) by FISH</b> <b>t(6;14) by FISH</b> <b>Beta-2 microglobulin &lt;5.5</b> <b>Labeling index &lt;2.0</b>

FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; MM, multiple myeloma; MyPRS, Myeloma Prognostic Risk Signature.

13

## Factors Influencing Treatment Choice



The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. *Myeloma: A Guide for Patients and their Families*. March 2005.

14

## Response Criteria

Response Type	M Protein	Plasma Cells in Bone Marrow	Other
<b>Stringent complete response (sCR)</b>	None (blood/urine)	No abnormal plasma cells	No free light chains
<b>Complete response (CR)</b>	None (blood/urine)	<5%	Disappearance of soft tissue plasmacytoma
<b>Very good partial response (VGPR)</b>	>90% reduction (blood)	NA	NA
<b>Partial response (PR)</b>	>50% reduction in serum and >90% reduction in urine	NA	>50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma
<b>Minimal response (MR)</b>	25%–49% reduction in blood and reduction of 50%–89% in urine	NA	25%–49% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytoma
<b>Stable disease (SD)</b>	Does not meet criteria for response or progressive disease		
<b>Progressive disease (PD)</b>	>25% increase (blood or urine)	>10%	New bone lesions, soft tissue plasmacytoma, high calcium levels

Durie BG, et al. *Leukemia*. 2006;20(9):1467–1473.

15

## Case Study

- 61-year-old male
- Presentation
  - SPEP: 3.6
  - IgG: 6791
  - Serum free light chain - Lambda: 89.56
  - Beta-2 microglobulin: 2.3
  - Albumin: 3.2 g/dL
  - Calcium: 8.2 mg/dL
  - Creatinine: 0.8 mg/dL
  - Hemoglobin: 9.3 g/dL
  - UPEP: 156 mg/24 hours
- BMBX 70%–80% plasma cells
- Survey + lytic lesions
  - Skull
  - 8th rib fracture
  - FISH results
    - Hyperdiploidy
    - 13q deletion
    - t(11;14)
  - **ISS II**
  - **Durie-Salmon Stage 2A**

BMBX, bone marrow biopsy; FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; Ig, immunoglobulin; SPEP, serum protein electrophoresis; UPEP, urine protein electrophoresis.

16



## Treatment Options for Transplant-Eligible Patient

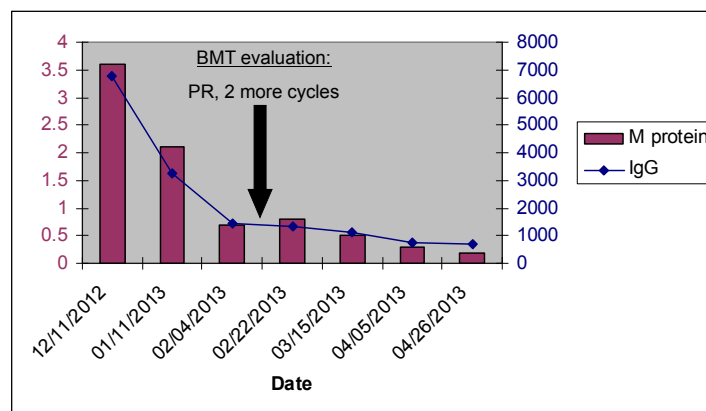
- Transplant
  - Avoid melphalan
- RVD
  - Lenalidomide 25 mg, days 1–14
  - Bortezomib 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, days 1, 4, 8, and 11
  - Dexamethasone 20 mg PO, days 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 12
- VDC
  - Bortezomib 1.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, days 1, 4, 8, and 11
  - Cyclophosphamide 500 mg PO, days 1, 8, and 15
  - Dexamethasone 20 mg PO, days 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 12

Bisphosphonate Monthly

RVD, lenalidomide, bortezomib, and dexamethasone; VDC, bortezomib, dexamethasone, and cyclophosphamide.

17

## Response: VGPR

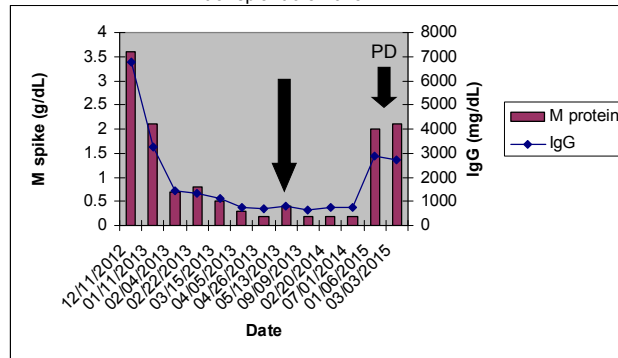


BMT, bone marrow transplant; Ig, immunoglobulin.

18

## Disease Course

High-dose melphalan  
and autologous  
transplant 6/5/2013



Ig, immunoglobulin.

19

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## Nursing Considerations

20

## Managing Side Effects

21

## Immunomodulatory Drugs (IMiDs)

	Thalidomide	Lenalidomide	Pomalidomide
Myelosuppression	Minimal	Yes	Yes
VTE	Yes	Yes	Yes
GI	Constipation	Diarrhea	Diarrhea
Rash	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sedation	Yes	No	No
Neuropathy	Yes	No	No

### Teratogens!

GI, gastrointestinal; VTE, venous thromboembolism.

22

## Proteasome Inhibitors

	<b>Bortezomib</b>	<b>Carfilzomib</b>
Schedule	Days 1, 4, 8, and 11 every 21 days	Days 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16 every 28 days
Modes of administration	IV/SC	IV
Myelosuppression/ thrombocytopenia	Yes	Yes
Neuropathy	Yes	No
Zoster	Yes	Yes
Dyspnea	No	Yes
Fatigue	Yes	Yes
GI	Yes	No
Cardiac/pulmonary (RARE)	No	Yes

GI, gastrointestinal; IV, intravenous; SC, subcutaneous.

23

## Steroids (Dexamethasone/Prednisone)

- Mood Swings
- Insomnia
- Irritability
- Hyperactivity
- Edema
- Flushing
- Fatigue
- Blurry vision
- Cataracts
- Dyspepsia
  - PPI
- Muscle atrophy
- Hyperglycemia
- Acne
- Muscle cramping
- Taste changes
- Ulcer
- Weight gain
- Hair loss

PPI, proton pump inhibitor.

Faiman B, et al. *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2008;12(3):53–62.

24

## Nurse's Role

- Education and support
  - Oral adherence to complex regimens
- Improving quality of life by helping to manage side effects
- Navigating patients and their caregivers throughout the disease process

25

## Bone Health

- Bisphosphonates
  - Avoid invasive dental procedures
  - Prevent pathological fractures
    - Orthopedist
    - Neurosurgeon
- Pain control
  - Avoid NSAIDs
  - Narcotic education

NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.  
Miceli TS, et al. *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2011;15(4):9–23.

26

## Renal Health

- Cast nephropathy (myeloma kidney)
- Hypercalcemia
  - Aggressive hydration and treatment
- Dehydration
  - IV fluids
- NSAIDS
- IV contrast
- Aminoglycoside antibiotics
  - Gentamycin, tobramycin, etc.
- Bisphosphonates

IV, intravenous; NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.  
Faiman B, et al. *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2011;15(4):66–76.

27

## Anemia

- Due to disease or treatment
- Supportive care
  - Erythropoietin-stimulating agents
    - Epoetin alfa
    - Darbepoetin alfa
  - PRBC transfusions
  - Fatigue
    - Treatment
    - Disease
    - Physical therapy

PRBC, packed red blood cell.

28

## Safety and Mobility

- Exercise
  - Physical/Occupational therapy
- Nutrition and hydration
  - Consult from nutritionist
- Psychosocial well-being
  - Support system
  - Fatigue
  - Sleep disturbances
  - Anxiety
  - Depression

Rome SI, et al. *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2011;15(suppl):41–52.

29

## Multidisciplinary Team Approach

- Social workers
  - Financial assistance programs
    - Non-profit organizations
      - The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
      - Chronic Disease Fund
      - Patient Network Access
    - Pharmaceutical companies
- Physical and occupational therapists
- Dietician
- Pharmacist
- Dentist

30

## Summary

- Multiple myeloma is most often a chronic and complex disease
- Treatment decisions are individualized to the patient
- Managing side effects helps patients maintain quality of life
- A multidisciplinary team approach helps support patients and caregivers

31

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**Thank You**

32



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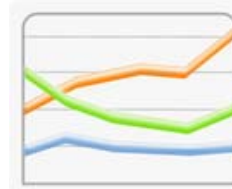
# Follicular Lymphoma: Case Study

Lynn Rich, ANP-BC, OCN  
*Nurse Practitioner*  
JP Wilmot Cancer Institute  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, NY

33

## Outline

- Define disease
- Epidemiology
- Natural history of disease
  - Indolent vs curable
- Approved treatment options
  - Rituxan maintenance vs observation
- Use of idelalisib
- Communication strategies: support of social workers
- Resources: survivorship challenges

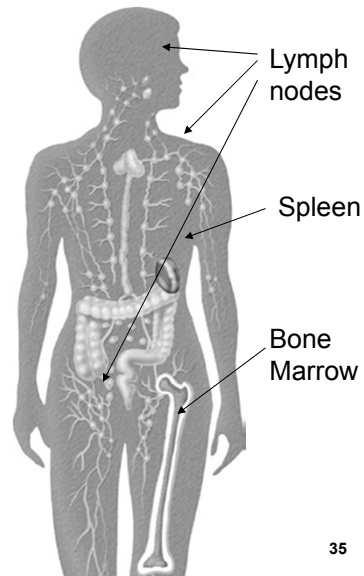


34

## Lymphoma

General name given to a group of cancers that affect the lymphatic system

- Includes:
  - Lymph nodes
  - Plasma cells
  - Spleen
  - Lymphatic vessels
  - Bone marrow
  - Immunoglobulins
- Immune system helps protect against disease and infection



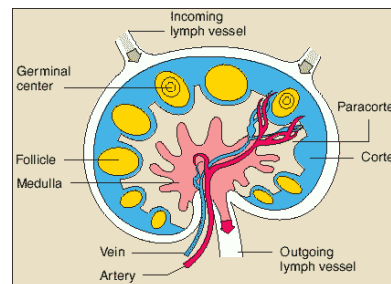
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. *Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*. 2013.

35

## Lymphoma

Two distinct types:

- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL)
  - Approx. 50 different subtypes
- Hodgkin lymphoma (HL)
  - Approx. 5 different subtypes



36

## Follicular Lymphoma (FL)

- B-cell NHL (vs T/NK-cell NHL)
- Damage to DNA of one of the parent B cells causes a malignant transformation resulting in uncontrolled and exaggerated growth of the lymphocyte

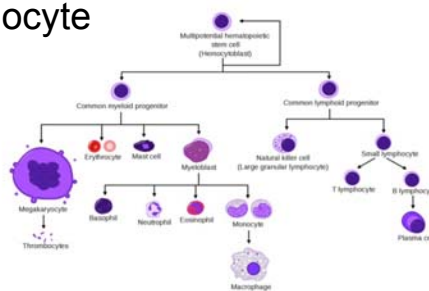


Image courtesy of JP Wilmot Cancer Institute; Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) Booklet.

37

## Follicular Lymphoma (FL)

- **2nd** most common subtype of NHL
- Average age at diagnosis is 60 years
- Indolent: slow-growing disease
- Treatable, but not curable
  - Impact of deciding treatment

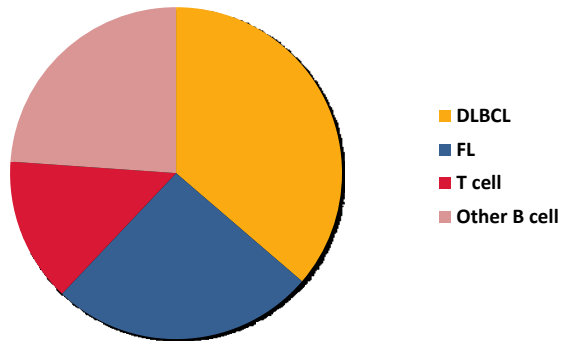


The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. *Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*. 2013.

38

## NHL: Epidemiology

Approximately 70,800 new cases of NHL in 2014



DLBCL, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. *Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*. 2013.

39

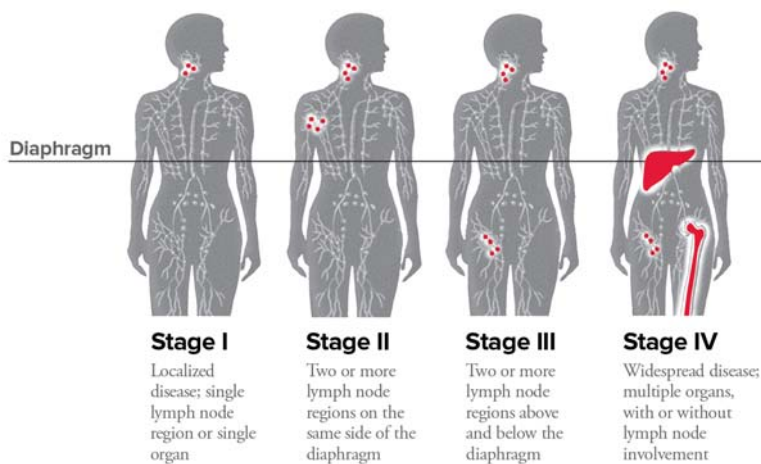
## Case Study: MB

- 57-year-old married female
  - 3rd-grade elementary teacher
  - Symptom profile
    - Abdominal fullness
    - Sweats
    - Fatigue
    - Lymphadenopathy
  - Next step, stage?



40

## Ann Arbor Staging System

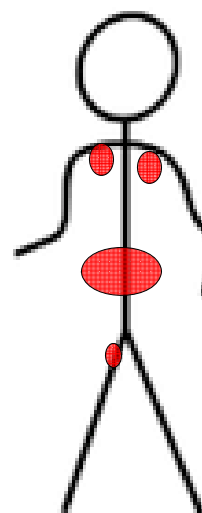


The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. *Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*. 2013.

41

## Case Study: MB

- Stage III
  - Bilateral axillary – small
  - Abdominal – 10-cm mass
  - Small inguinal node (groin node)
  - Bone marrow negative (would have been stage IV)



42

## Treatment

- Watch and wait?
- Grade 1, 2, or 3?



43

## Ready to Treat

- Criteria includes:
  - >3 sites of disease, 3 cm or more
  - 1 node measuring 7 cm
  - Cytopenias – refractory thrombocytopenia disease
  - Effusions
  - Symptoms of disease, or B symptoms
  - Threatened organ involvement
  - Elevated LDH



LDH, lactate dehydrogenase.

44

## Case Study: MB

- Treated with R-CHOP – completed 2007
  - Attained complete remission
- Consider maintenance with rituximab vs observation
  - Upfront vs consolidation
  - Things to consider:
    - Expected response
    - Impact on overall survival
    - Quality of life
    - Financial impact



R-CHOP, rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone.

45

## Case Study: MB

- No maintenance rituximab
- Relapsed in 5/2008
  - Concerning?
- What we did:
  - Salvage RICE × 2, then autologous stem cell transplant
  - Complete remission 9/2008



RICE, rituximab, ifosfamide, carboplatin, and etoposide.

46

## Case Study: MB

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- Relapsed 12/2014
  - Essentially asymptomatic – mild abdominal fullness
  - However, CT of abdomen showed increased disease
- Is she ready for treatment?
  - What are the treatment options?

CT, computed tomography.

47

## Idelalisib – What Is It?

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- PI3K inhibitor
  - Phosphoinositide 3-kinase delta

48



## Idelalisib

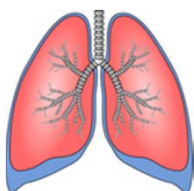
- Oral agent
- FDA approved in 2014
- Used for CLL/SLL or FL
- In relapsed setting



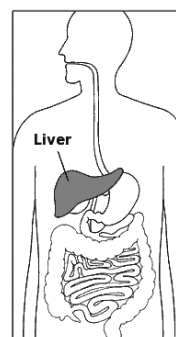
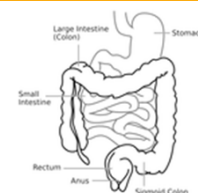
CLL/SLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma.

49

## Side Effect Profile



- Concern for pneumonitis or colitis
  - What to look for
  - When concerned
  - How to follow
- Concern for evolution of liver function abnormalities
  - What to look for
  - When concerned
  - How to follow



50

## Things to Consider

- Is this patient a good candidate?
  - Why wouldn't she be?
  - Why would she be?
- Bring in social worker
  - Help to assess medical literacy (implications)
  - Help with financial assistance
    - What are potential sources of assistance?



51

## Communication Strategies

- Create a calendar with details
  - When to take pills, get blood drawn, etc.
- Dialogue with patient
  - Check in by phone
    - At least weekly initially
    - Consider MyChart®
- Eventually evolve to monthly visits, if tolerated



52

## What Happened to MB?

- Began idelalisib 150 mg BID
- Well tolerated
- Held after 2 months for elevated LFTs
- Update to date...

BID, twice daily; LFTs, liver function tests.

53

## Resources – Survivorship Issues

- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
  - [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org)
  - Explore local chapter support groups
- YMCA – Exercise program
  - Explain cancer survivor
  - Describe health and fitness programs
- Look for specific related survivor support groups
  - [www.LLS.org/survivorship](http://www.LLS.org/survivorship)



54

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Thank You

