

CANCER 101



Cancer Treatment

Lesson 5



We will learn to explain to family and friends:

- Cancer treatments
- Difference between local and systemic treatment of cancer
- Why side effects commonly occur with cancer treatment
- Side effects
- Clinical trials



What is Treatment?

- The Team:

Surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and others

- Treatment Plan:

Surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hormone therapy or biological therapies, or participation in a clinical trial



Treatment Depends On. . .

- Type of cancer
- Size & location of tumor
- Stage of disease
- Person's general health
- Other factors

Local or systemic

- Local treatments:

Affect cancer cells in the tumor and the area near it.

- Surgery
- Radiation therapy

- Systemic treatments:

Travel through the bloodstream, reaching cancer cells all over the body.

- Chemotherapy
- Hormone therapy
- Biological therapy

Side Effects

- Occur because cancer treatment damages healthy cells and tissues in addition to cancer cells.
- Depend mainly on the type and extent of the treatment.

Treatment Methods

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Adjuvant Chemotherapy
- Hormonal Therapy
- Immunotherapy

Surgery

- Very effective in treating localized cancer.
- Localized cancer can be cured by surgery.



Chemotherapy

- Very effective in some cancers.
- Can cure some cancers which have spread throughout body, such as:
 - Leukemia
 - Lymphoma
 - Cancer of testis

Chemotherapy

- Partially effective in some cancers.
- Can cause some cancers to go away temporarily:
 - Colon cancer
 - Lung cancer
 - Breast cancer

Adjuvant Chemotherapy

- Chemotherapy is given after surgery to decrease the chance of cancer coming back.
- Chemotherapy is effective in:
 - Breast cancer
 - Colon cancer

Radiation Therapy

- Beam with machine.
- Very effective in treating localized cancer, whether for cure or symptom relief.
- Very effective in treating cancer which is causing pain or pressure.

Hormone Therapy

- Some cancers depend on the body's hormones to grow, such as
 - Breast cancer
 - Prostate cancer
- Anti-hormone treatment can cause these cancers to go away or be controlled for a time.

Hormones

- Hormones are chemicals produced by glands of the body.
- Hormones travel in the blood stream to other parts of the body to perform a function.
- Female hormone (estrogen) affects the uterus and breasts.
- Male hormone (testosterone) affects the prostate gland.

Biological Therapy (Immunotherapy)

- Helps the body's natural ability (immune system) to fight disease or protects the body from some of the side effects of cancer treatment.
- Treatments which stimulate the immune system of the body to fight cancer cells.

Immune System of the Body

- The body has ways to protect itself against attack by bacteria, viruses, cancer cells, and chemicals.
- The immune system consists of:
 - Antibodies and other body chemicals
 - White blood cells
 - Lymphocytes

Did we cover...



- Cancer treatments?
- Difference between local and systemic treatment of cancer?
- Why side effects commonly occur with cancer treatment?
- Side effects that occur as a result of cancer treatment?
- Clinical trials

For more information:

- National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service

1-800-4-CANCER

- TTY service

1-800-332-8615

- *LiveHelp* via www.cancer.gov

- Smoking Quitline of the National Cancer Institute

1-877-44U-QUIT

For more information:

- American Cancer Society
1-800-ACS-2345
www.cancer.org