IMPLEMENTATION OF A PHARMACY MANAGED ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY MONITORING PROTOCOL

Mallory Sherwood, PharmD
Resident Pharmacist
South County Hospital Healthcare System
OBJECTIVES

- Understand the differences between oral chemotherapy and IV chemotherapy

- Know the importance of laboratory monitoring with oral chemotherapy regimens

- Describe the pharmacist’s role in the oral chemotherapy healthcare team

- Understand the importance of counseling patients on oral chemotherapy
**Oral Chemo Introduction**

- Mechanisms of action are similar to those of IV chemotherapy
- May cause side effects similar to those of IV chemotherapy
- May have complicated dosing regimen

**Lab Monitoring**

- Oncology pharmacists often review patient labs before the patient receives IV chemotherapy.

- Oral chemotherapy has specific requirements for lab monitoring.

- Protocols may be established so that pharmacists can work with doctors to assure the appropriate and timely ordering of labs.
**ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY MONITORING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revlimid (lenalidomide)</th>
<th>Sutent (sunitinib)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBC:</td>
<td>CBC: prior to each cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mantle Cell Lymphoma:</td>
<td>- CMP: prior to each cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly x4 weeks, then every 2 weeks x3 months then monthly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDS: weekly x8 weeks, then at least monthly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple myeloma: every 2 weeks x3 months then at least monthly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMP: every 3-4 months (BUN/SCr for hydration status)</td>
<td>- LFTs: prior to each cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid function: baseline and every 2-3 months</td>
<td>- Thyroid function:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS for pregnancy prevention: frequent pregnancy tests, 2 negative prior to initiation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKG: baseline and periodic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinalysis: for proteinuria development or worsening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrenal function: prior to each cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

source=search_result&search=revlimid&selectedTitle=1~82

source=search_result&search=sutent&selectedTitle=1~94
PHARMACIST’S ROLE

- Create drug charts for oral chemotherapy monitoring
- Work with the patient’s healthcare team
- Communicate lab monitoring plans with the patient
- Keep an ongoing list of patients receiving oral chemo, and review their labs
- Help patients obtain their medications at the lowest possible cost
PATIENT EDUCATION

- Cost
- How the drug works
- Taking the medication
  - Name & strength of the drug
  - With or without food
  - Storage and handling
- Adverse Reactions
  - How to prevent and manage side effects at home
  - When to call the doctor
- Compliance
- Pharmacists should be involved in counseling patients on oral chemotherapy drugs

Image accessed on 9/30/14, from: http://www.alcooklaw.com/practice-areas/medication-error-injury/pharmacist-dispensing-error/
Questions?