Title:
Oral Anticancer Agents: Presenting New Challenges for Family Caregivers of Patients With Cancer

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Session Title:
Family Caregivers: Presence, Perspectives, Challenges, and Health

Keywords:
cancer, caregivers and oral anticancer agents

References:
Abstract Summary:
Attendees will learn the current state of the science on the new challenges that family caregivers face when patients are prescribed oral anticancer agents (OAA). Strategies for clinicians to support these family caregivers will be discussed.

Content Outline:
I. Introduction
   A. There is a heightened use of oral anticancer agents (OAAs) among patients diagnosed with cancer. OAAs now account for over half of the new cancer treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration (Center Watch, 2018).
   B. These treatments provide an aspect of convenience in that the medication can be taken at home (Marshall, Vachon, Given & Lehto, 2018; Wiley, 2017). However, new challenges are evident as the responsibility for administration, adherence, and symptom management of cancer care shifts from oncology clinics to patients and their family caregivers (Marshall et al., 2018; Siden et al., 2014).

II. Body
   A. Caregivers face new challenges when caring for patients receiving oral anticancer agents
   B. Caregivers have unmet needs such as lack of standardized education regarding safe handling of anticancer agents, proper administration and adherence, managing symptoms and side effects in the home environment, managing temporary and/or permanent interruptions to treatment, and cost.

III. Conclusion
   A. Oncology professionals (e.g. oncologists, nurses, pharmacists) can provide strategies to support caregivers that may improve patient and caregiver outcomes

Topic Selection:
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Abstract Text:

Purpose: To describe the current challenges for family caregivers of patients receiving OAAs and propose strategies for clinicians to support both patients and their family caregivers for safe care in the home environment.

Methods: Focus group methodology and an extensive review of the literature specific to caregiving and oral anticancer medications were completed. Focus groups included caregivers who met the following inclusion criteria: 1) family caregivers of patients with cancer who were prescribed an OAA; 2) English speaking; 3) aged 21 years or older; and 4) able to hear and verbally communicate. Caregivers were recruited from three separate oncology clinics in the Midwest. Focus group interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. A constant comparative analysis was used to evaluate data (Krueger & Casey, 2015). Independent data analysis was carried out by two nurse researchers and discrepancies were discussed until an agreement was met, using a third nurse researcher as necessary.
Literature was obtained from PubMed, CINAHL, Medline, PsychINFO, and EMBASE databases if published between 1999 and 2018 and included studies of adults 18 years of age or older. Search terms included *caregiver, oral cancer medication, oral antineoplastic, oral anticancer*, oral chemotherapy, and oral targeted agents.

Results: Evidence from focus group interviews and the review of the literature identified the following main caregiver challenges: 1) overseeing the preparation, administration, and adherence of complex OAA regimens (Bartel 2007; Lester 2012; Morris & Marshall-Lucette, 2017; Siden et al., 2014); 2) managing symptoms, side effects, and drug-drug or food-drug interactions (Bartel, 2007; Lonardi et al., 2007; Morris & Marshall-Lucette, 2017); 3) safety concerns related to potential toxic exposure to OAAs during medication preparation and administration, and from bodily fluids of the patient (Marshall et al., 2018; Rudnitzki & McMahon, 2015; Trovato & Tuttle, 2014); 4) financial concerns specific to OAAs (Bartel, 2007, Marshall et al., 2018; Morris & Marshall-Lucetter, 2017); 5) managing the treatment trajectory of OAAs including temporary and/or permanent interruptions to treatment (Marshall et al., 2018); and 6) lack of standardized OAA safety education for family caregivers during the course of treatment (Bartel, 2014; Mulkerin et al., 2016; Trovato & Tuttle, 2014).

Conclusion: Family caregivers of patients receiving OAAs, have unmet needs that may negatively impact both patient and caregiver outcomes.