



Friendships are formed at the Friday evening reception.



Side Effect Management of the Taxanes with a Focus on Peripheral Neuropathy

At the recent OA Head Nurse/ Practice Manager Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, Patti Merwin, RN spoke about side effect management of the taxanes with a focus on peripheral neuropathy. She also reviewed specific side effects relating to dose dense therapy as well as weekly taxane schedules for the treatment of breast cancer.

Ms. Merwin discussed side effects of the taxanes including: Myalgias, Cutaneous Toxicities, Fluid Retention, Nail Changes, Asthenia, Hyperlacrimation, and Periperal Neuropathy. Nursing strategies for managing fluid retention, nail changes and hypersensitivity

reactions were discussed with audience members.

A review of peripheral neuropathy included review of causative chemotherapeutic agents, objective and subjective symptoms, treatment, and the importance of the patient exam. Emphasis was placed on asking the patients the right questions to ascertain if the patient is experiencing peripheral neuropathy: "Are you able to button a shirt, or cut a piece of chicken with a knife and fork?"

The importance of scheduling breaks when giving weekly taxanes was emphasized. Treating three out of four weeks may help to reduce the degree of toxicities.



Patti Merwin, RN

