

**Nursing Management of Myelodysplastic Syndrome: Improving Patient Outcomes**

DENISE COSGROVE, RN, BSN, OCN

Denise began her presentation by describing the incidence, possible risk factors and the common clinical presentation of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). She explained the diagnosis, staging, and risk stratification of MDS and identified treatment options for MDS. Denise also discussed recommendations for patient education and nursing management of Myelodysplastic Syndrome and treatment options.

**Managing Care Expectations and Satisfaction for Oncology Patients**

JUDITH KOSTKA, RN, MS, MBA, OCN

What creates a satisfied patient? As oncology practices face system changes, fiscal constraints, time pressures and increased treatment complexity, it is difficult to also focus on patient satisfaction. However, quality concerns related to patient satisfaction have grown, and patients themselves have become more informed, more involved and have higher expectations of their role in decision-making. In fact, the top contributor to patient satisfaction is the relationship between patient

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# Reconnecting and Adapting

Where can you discuss reimbursement issues and hang out with a Garth Brooks look-a-like all in the same day? OA members experienced this unlikely occurrence at the OA Head Nurse & Practice Manager Conference in Nashville, TN. Highlights of the conference included a 2006 Medicare update from Pat DiBenedetto, RN, as well as a supportive care strategies workshop. This interactive workshop addressed the many challenges anticipated for the coming year and the various practice management and supportive care strategies utilized to adapt to these challenges. Nurses had the opportunity to reconnect with other members, OA staff and manufacturer partners, as well as earn continuing education credit. A summary of the presentations begins above.

OA HEAD NURSE & PRACTICE MANAGER CONFERENCE  
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