

“We appreciate everything Oncology Associates does. It’s great to know that someone is out there if we need the support.”

Anna Marie, Practice Manager



to efficacy, safety and side effect profile. She also reviewed the nurse’s role in patient education regarding Abraxane and self care management

What We’re Learning About Proteasome Inhibition in Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma

BARBARA A. MACGREGOR-CORTELLI RN, OCN

Barbara reviewed the history of the disease and the present therapies available for the treatment of indolent lymphomas, specifically Mantle Cell Lymphoma. She then reviewed the mechanism of action of proteasome inhibition in the treatment of hematologic malignancies. Barbara presented the many clinical trials presently available in Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma with bortezomib (Velcade) alone and in combination with several standard treatment regimens. She also reviewed the current study data and treatments widely available in the treatment of Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia and Multiple Myeloma. She focused on nursing considerations in the management of toxicities when administering bortezomib. To name a few, she reviewed the traditional and alternative therapies recommended for neuropathy, as well as focused on the management of thrombocytopenia and necrotizing vasculitic rash. In summary, the future looks very promising based on the data available for the treatment of hematologic malignancies with bortezomib alone and in combination therapy.

MicroMD®: Maximize Reimbursements and Improve AR

MIKE MILLER

In today’s world, with increasing liability insurance rates and decreasing reimbursements, in order for physicians to provide quality patient care they have to manage their practice with increasing efficiency and productivity. Mike Miller

representing MicroMD spoke about how with more than 25 years of development behind it, MicroMD® has become a solid and reliable name in the practice management software field, helping practices nationwide to maximize reimbursements and improve their accounts receivable status.

A survey of OA members showed that 28% of them currently use a DOS-based practice management system. Member Rita Lopez of the Blood and Cancer Center in Canfield, Ohio, spoke about her experience with MicroMD: The practice’s 15-year-old computer system was based on the obsolete MS-DOS operating system, was out of capacity and lacked features such as automatic remittance processing. There was an obvious need for improved staff productivity and increased effectiveness in accounts receivable management.

In 2003, a team chosen by the Center’s three physicians evaluated five leading practice management systems and selected MicroMD to convert the entire 15 years of history – all past and current patients, charges, payment history, authorization records, unpaid and partially paid claims, and payment adjustments – from the old system. Paperwork for the transition to a new clearinghouse was also completed. Within two months of going live on MicroMD, practice manager Rita Lopez noted that the staff was all caught up and fully productive. No additional staff was hired, in spite of a 30-35% growth in business volume, she noted, and accounts receivable were reduced by 20% – in itself enough to more than pay for the system.

Member polls indicated that within the next twelve months 47% of the members will be looking for a Practice Management – EMR system. Mike discussed that to find a best of breed solution, medical practices should first build a solid foundation with a robust practice management system like MicroMD, and then interface with an EMR for a seamless, paperless office. **OA**