



FDA has granted Revlimid approval for the treatment of patients with transfusion-dependent anemia due to Low- or Intermediate-1-risk myelodysplastic syndromes associated with deletion 5q cytogenetic abnormality with or without additional cytogenetic abnormalities.

In summary, there are now options to treat patients with myelodysplasia. With the recent additions to the treatment armamentarium and newer products under development, we will be able to deliver hope and better care to our numerous patients with myelodysplasia.



Oncology nurses play a crucial role in the successful management of the side effects of Xeloda. The most common side effects are diarrhea, hand-foot syndrome, stomatitis and nausea/vomiting. As oncology nurses, we are experienced in managing these side effects, however, Xeloda, unlike intravenous chemotherapy, is self administered by the patient (or caregiver). Traditionally, the administration of chemotherapy is in the hands of the physician and nurse. Patient education is the key to success. I have been conducting Xeloda teaching classes since our first prescription was dispensed from our practice in 1998. Two years ago, the class was changed from individual sessions to a regularly scheduled weekly one-hour class. This has been much more efficient and I am still able to conduct personal conferences with the patients at the end of the class.

The Role of Capecitabine (Xeloda) in the Treatment of Colorectal and Breast Cancer

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Xeloda (Capecitabine), an oral prodrug of 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU), is not what I would consider a “new” chemotherapy agent. It was approved for use in metastatic breast cancer in 1998 and metastatic colorectal cancer in 2001. Recently, the X-ACT trial resulted in FDA approval for Xeloda in the adjuvant colorectal setting, where it was compared to 5-FU/LCV (Mayo Clinic regimen).



The key points discussed in the weekly Xeloda class include: 1) management of diarrhea, prevention and management of stomatitis, and prevention and management of hand-foot syndrome, 2) dosing and administration, and 3) the importance of keeping a journal to record side effects. OA