



MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM TOOLKIT: OPTIMAL PATIENT MANAGEMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMOURS

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Background

Multidisciplinary care is described as “an integrated team approach to health care in which medical and allied health care professionals consider all relevant treatment options and develop corroboratively an individual treatment plan for each patient”

Today, cancer management demands increasing specialization and a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach where a variety of healthcare professionals who possess expertise in their respective fields, work closely together.

The MDT management approach is patient-centred and improves coordination of care and outcomes including quality of life and survival.

MDT approach in GIST ensures that patients receive timely treatment and care from appropriately skilled professionals resulting in improved outcomes including quality of life and survival

GIST : A Candidate for the MDT Approach

As there are a variety of therapeutic options available for patients with GISTs, a multidisciplinary team is essential for management. Each specialist brings a different perspective thus helping to optimize and individualize care for each patient.

Benefits of MDT Management of GIST

The benefits of multidisciplinary disease management of patients include reducing recurrent disease, optimizing timing of surgery, prolonging survival for the patient and enhancing response to therapies

The Core MDT in GIST

The core MDT team for management of gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GISTs) includes :

- Gastroenterologist,
- Pathologist
- Interventional radiologist
- Surgeon
- Medical oncologist
- Nuclear medicine specialists
- Nurse

Other members can include:

- Oncology psychiatrist
- Social Worker
- Clinical psychologist
- Nutritionist/ dietician
- Palliative care provider and occupational therapist.

Together, they ensure that all patients receive timely, continuous, integrated and improved quality of cancer care.

All team members play a specific role in the multi-step diagnostic work-up and all of them contribute to different extents to the decisional process leading to a “tailor- made” therapy based on patients’ specific disease and health status.

Individual roles and communication

Consultations between the surgeon and the gastroenterologist, radiologist, pathologist, medical oncologist, and nuclear medicine specialist are essential to ensure optimal care of patients with GIST.

Communication between multidisciplinary team and patients is most important. In cancer management, communication skills are a key to achieving the important goals

Summary of Contents:

- Benefits of the MDT approach in GIST
- Role of the multidisciplinary team in management of GISTs
- Cancer
- An overview of GISTs is presented. Epidemiology pathogenesis, pathology, clinical features and diagnosis are discussed.
- AJCC TNM Staging is presented
- Treatment modalities including surgery and medical treatment are outlined
- NCCN treatment guidelines for GISTs are presented
- Algorithm for treatment is included
- The benefits of multidisciplinary disease management of patients

Proposed Deliverables

Print Booklet

A5, soft cover,

full colour, 64pp

e-book version (e-pub and PDF files)

Ask the Expert: Optional 3-5 minute video clips with slides

Presented on accompanying CD-ROM or posted online

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