



# **IMPLEMENTATION OF A PHARMACY MANAGED ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY MONITORING PROTOCOL**

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# OBJECTIVES

- Understand the differences between oral chemotherapy and IV chemotherapy
- Know the importance of laboratory monitoring with oral chemotherapy regimens
- Describe the pharmacist's role in the oral chemotherapy healthcare team
- Understand the importance of counseling patients on oral chemotherapy



# ORAL CHEMO INTRODUCTION

- Mechanisms of action are similar to those of IV chemotherapy
- May cause side effects similar to those of IV chemotherapy
- May have complicated dosing regimen



Image accessed on 9/30/14, from <http://cosmosmagazine.com/news/fasting-protects-against-chemo-side-effects/>



# LAB MONITORING

- Oncology pharmacists often review patient labs before the patient receives IV chemotherapy
- Oral chemotherapy has specific requirements for lab monitoring
- Protocols may be established so that pharmacists can work with doctors to assure the appropriate and timely ordering of labs



# ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY MONITORING

## Revlimid (lenalidomide)

- CBC:
  - Mantle Cell Lymphoma: Weekly x4 weeks, then every 2 weeks x3 months then monthly
  - MDS: weekly x8 weeks, then at least monthly
  - Multiple myeloma: every 2 weeks x3 months then at least monthly
- CMP: every 3-4 months (BUN/SCr for hydration status)
- Thyroid function: baseline and every 2-3 months
- REMS for pregnancy prevention: frequent pregnancy tests, 2 negative prior to initiation

## Sutent (sunitinib)

- CBC: prior to each cycle
- CMP: prior to each cycle
- LFTs: prior to each cycle
- Thyroid function:
  - Patients with pre-existing levothyroxine therapy: baseline then every 4 weeks until stable, then every 2 months
  - Without pre-existing levothyroxine therapy: baseline then every 4 weeks x4 months, then every 2-3 months
- EKG: baseline and periodic
- Urinalysis: for proteinuria development or worsening
- Adrenal function: prior to each cycle

# PHARMACIST'S ROLE

- Create drug charts for oral chemotherapy monitoring
- Work with the patient's healthcare team
- Communicate lab monitoring plans with the patient
- Keep an ongoing list of patients receiving oral chemo, and review their labs
- Help patients obtain their medications at the lowest possible cost



# PATIENT EDUCATION



- Cost
- How the drug works
- Taking the medication
  - Name & strength of the drug
  - With or without food
  - Storage and handling
- Adverse Reactions
  - How to prevent and manage side effects at home
  - When to call the doctor
- Compliance
- Pharmacists should be involved in counseling patients on oral chemotherapy drugs

Image accessed on 9/30/14, from: <http://www.alcooklaw.com/practice-areas/medication-error-injury/pharmacist-dispensing-error/>



**Questions?**

