High-Dose Interleukin-2 Administration in the Oncology Medical-Surgical Setting – An Innovation to Impact Cost Efficiencies, Clinical Outcomes and the Ideal Patient Experience

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7C Hematology/Oncology Unit Staff Members
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Objective
Discuss program components for successful administration of high-dose IL-2 outside the traditional step-down or critical care setting, in a 20-bed medical-surgical hematology/oncology unit.

Evidence and Background
IL-2
• Biotherapy that stimulates immune reaction
• Durable and complete responses in metastatic melanoma & renal cell carcinoma

Routine Administration
• Step-down or critical care unit
• No published reports in medical-surgical setting

Methods and Interventions
Goal
• Administer a maximum of 14 IL-2 doses

Staffing
• 2 patients to 1 nurse

Consistent Timed Therapy - q 8 hours
• 3:00 pm; 11:00 pm; 7:00 am

Managed Solely by Attending Physician
• No residents or fellows

Routine Administration
• Strict fluid management
• Electrolyte replacement
• Oxygen titration
• Antiemetic administration
• Aggressive side effect management to allow next dose

Treatment Plan
1 Course

Cycle #1 – IL-2 q 8 hours
6 maximum 24 doses
Rest 7-10 days

Cycle #2 – IL-2 q 8 hours
Rest 6-12 weeks

IL-2 Assessment Criteria

Patient Teaching Information

Key Factors for Success
• Private rooms
• Flexible staffing patterns to support 1:2 nurse/patient ratio
• Clinical practice guidelines with nurse driven protocols
• Commitment between nurses, providers and ancillary personnel to prioritize communication for the IL-2 patient
• Promotion of family presence - at patient’s bedside 24/7 and participate as partner in care

Outcomes

Patients Treated
• 43 stage-4 melanoma and 23 stage-4 renal cancer patients

Mortality During Treatment
• 0%

• 4 patient transfers to higher level of care
• 8 patients disease-free, equal to NCI national experience

PICC Line Infections
• 0% (n=300)

Average Length of Stay
• 4 days, comparable to the national average

Patient Satisfaction Scores
• Consistently mid-90’s, > peer group and Magnet™ hospital scores

References: