Boosting Education While Boosting the Immune System

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Since 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released over 80 drug approvals and/or new indications for Cancer. This number is expected to rise as science, technology and therapeutics advance with a more personalized approach to Cancer Care. In 2014, all 10 of newly FDA approved drugs worked by attacking the cancer on the molecular level. Immune-mediated adverse reactions are common in patients treated with immunotherapies. Since 2011, Lehigh Valley Health Network has opened more than 20 clinical trials including immunotherapies. Combined with approval of ipilimumab in 2011, and pembrolizumab and nivolumab in 2014, the number of patients receiving immunotherapy has increased.

### Purpose
To educate staff and patients on immune-mediated adverse events.

### Significance & Background
- Since 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released over 80 drug approvals and/or new indications for Cancer.
- This number is expected to rise as science, technology and therapeutics advance with a more personalized approach to Cancer Care.

### Background
- Immune-mediated adverse reactions are common in patients treated with immunotherapies.
- Since 2011, Lehigh Valley Health Network has opened more than 20 clinical trials including immunotherapies.
- Combined with approval of ipilimumab in 2011, and pembrolizumab and nivolumab in 2014, the number of patients receiving immunotherapy has increased.

### Mechanism of Action

### Interventions
- Inpatient and outpatient nurses identified the topic of immunotherapy and adverse events for education during a learning needs assessment.
- Oncology nurse leaders provided in-services to staff specific to the drugs with a large concentration on immune-mediated adverse reactions.

### Evaluation
- Written and verbal feedback of staff reported an increase in knowledge of immunotherapies and their adverse events following the in-services.
- Patients are reporting signs and symptoms of immune-mediated adverse reactions leading to direct hospital admission for prompt management with corticosteroids.

### Discussion
- Innovative strategies to educate staff and patients are needed to provide quality care to a growing population of patients receiving immunotherapy.
- The adverse events of immunotherapy are common and much different than chemotherapy or radiation side effects.
- To maintain patient safety, it is imperative for nurses to recognize the symptoms.
- Oncology nurse leaders continue to provide staff education and in-services as needed.

### Interventions
- The Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) Cancer Program Patient Education also identified a need for patient education material.
- A patient education book was developed to provide unique information related to immunotherapy, specifically how to recognize immune-mediated adverse reactions.

### Excerpt from Patient Education
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- Significance & Background
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- Mechanism of Action
- Interventions
- Evaluation
- Discussion