

MELANOMA MANAGEMENT TEAM

Overview

The Melanoma Management Team is dedicated to the comprehensive management of patients with the deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma. This includes education, community awareness, screening, and access to clinical trials. Most patients are first evaluated through the Department of Dermatology. In 2007, 12,282 outpatients were seen. Some patients with early melanoma can be managed exclusively through the Department of Dermatology. Those needing lymph-node sampling or skin grafting are evaluated by the Department of Surgical Oncology. More than 90 percent of patients with melanoma are treated with surgery alone. Patients with advanced or recurrent disease have their cases reviewed at the Tumor Board meeting to establish optimum treatment. All of our patients are entered into a melanoma database, which tracks patient population and outcomes. Patient population remains high, with 127 patients seen last year. The average annual incidence of melanoma in Suffolk County is 158 cases per year, which makes Stony Brook the major melanoma treatment center on Long Island.

TEAM MEMBERS

Surgical Oncology: Colette Pameijer, MD, Team Leader; Claire Smith, RN, Patient Navigator; and Patricia Pugliani, PhD, Research Administration

Dermatology: Evan Jones, MD, Chair, Department of Dermatology; Peter Klein, MD; Adam Korzenko, MD; and Deborah Deierlein, NP

Medical Hematology/Oncology: Andrzej Kudelka, MD

Pathology: Frederick Miller, MD

Radiation Oncology: Edward Valentine, MD

Radiology: Corazon Cabahug, MD, and Elaine Gould, MD

Highlights

● The team works to have clinical trials available to all patients.

Some are national (for example, ECOG, typically for patients with metastatic or advanced disease) and others are Stony Brook's own. Currently, Stony Brook has high accrual rates into its ongoing psychosocial and tumor profiling studies.

● The Melanoma Team includes

dermatologists, surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, Patient Navigators, nurse practitioners, and a data manager.

● Stony Brook has begun isolated limb infusion for recurrent melanoma that is limited to an extremity.

In this procedure, the arm or leg with the recurrent melanoma is isolated from the rest of the body by a tight tourniquet. Catheters are inserted in the main artery and vein to that extremity and warm chemotherapy is circulated. While not a cure, it can control the disease for a period of time.

● The team has established a tissue bank of melanoma specimens.

This detailed information will be combined with the clinical database to help establish new guidelines for treatment and risk of recurrence. And to ensure continuity of care, the team has created a patient network database with information on visits and dates of skin examinations and screenings, which is available to all members of the Melanoma Management Team.

● The team held its third annual skin screening at the Cancer Center.

Of the 280 attendees, 196 between ages 17 and 100 were screened. Other outreach initiatives included high school health education classes and participation in the Hospital's Health Expo.

● **With the addition of Adam Korzenko, MD**, the Department of Dermatology is establishing a skin cancer clinic at the Cancer Center, which will be coordinated with the melanoma clinic.

Some patients with early melanoma can be managed exclusively through the Department of Dermatology.

THE **CANCER CARE** PROGRAM

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