

Culture Advantage

Anatomy and Medical Terminology for Interpreters

ONCOLOGY TERMINOLOGY

Marlene V. Obermeyer, MA, RN

marlene@culture-advantage.com

Oncology Case Study for the PowerPoint Presentation

Mrs. Amin is a 65 year-old patient who is accompanied by her daughter to the physician's office. Mrs. Amin immigrated to the US from Pakistan 2 years ago. She was started on antihypertensive medications in Pakistan and her daughter wants her to have a physical exam. Otherwise, Mrs. Amin reports no medical symptoms.

As part of the medical work-up, the physician performs a breast exam. The physician informs Mrs. Amin and her daughter that there is a small lump in Mrs. Amin's left breast. More testing will be needed in order to make a diagnosis. A diagnostic mammogram and breast ultrasound are scheduled. Mrs. Amin is referred to a surgeon for aspiration of the lump and for biopsy. The physician also recommends colonoscopy and Pap Smear as part of the cancer screening process.

By the end of this session, you will learn the following terms:

- Mammogram
- Ultrasound
- Tumor
- Benign
- Cancer
- Biopsy
- Diagnosis
- Prognosis

HEMATOLOGY and ONCOLOGY TERMINOLOGY

Alopecia	The loss of hair, which may include all body hair as well as scalp hair.	Anorexia	Loss of appetite.
Antineoplastic agent	A drug that prevents, kills, or blocks the growth and spread of cancer cells.	Lymphatic system	Includes lymph nodes, lymph, and lymph vessels that serve as a filtering system for the blood.
Benign	Not spreading, not cancerous.	Central Line or CVC, CVL (Central Venous Line)	Central venous catheter. A tube that goes into the chest and directly into one of the major blood vessels.
Biopsy	Removal of a small section of a tissue to be tested for cancer.	CA or cancer	Cancer, uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells that can spread to other tissues; carcinoma
BMT	Bone marrow transplant	Kaposi's sarcoma	A type of cancer characterized by the abnormal growth of blood vessels that develop into skin lesions.
Chemotherapy	Use of drugs to treat cancer.	Skin Cancer	Several types: Skin cancer that forms in the melanocytes (skin pigment) is called melanoma. Skin cancer that forms in the lower part of the epidermis (the outer layer of the skin) is called basal cell carcinoma. Skin cancer that forms in squamous cells (flat cells that form the surface of the skin) is called squamous cell carcinoma.
Complete resection	Total removal of cancerous area during	Hodgkin lymphoma	A cancer of the immune system that is marked by

	surgery		the presence of a type of cell called the Reed-Sternberg cell.
Curative treatment	Treatment to destroy the cancer.	Leukemia	Cancer that starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow.
External radiotherapy	Radioactivity applied from a source outside the body.	AIDS-related cancers	Certain cancer types that are more likely to occur in people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), eg, Kaposi's sarcoma.
Follow-up	Periodic visits to the physician for monitoring.	Herpes Simplex Virus	A virus that causes cold sores or fever blisters. Herpes Zoster – causes chicken pox and shingles.
Haematology, hematology	Branch of medicine that specializes in the study and treatment of blood and blood tissues.	CEA	Carcinoembryonic Antigen (tumor marker)
In-situ	not invasive	TPN	Total parenteral nutrition. Nourishment is given intravenously.
Internal radiotherapy	Placing radioactive source within the body. Example: Brachytherapy.	Neuroblastoma	Cancer that arises in immature nerve cells and affects mostly infants and children.
Malignant	Cancerous, may grow and spread	Immunotherapy	Medications to enhance the body's immune system.
Metastases	tumor spreads to other parts of the body	Radiation oncologist	A doctor who specializes in using radiation to treat cancer.
Palliative treatment	Treatment to relieve symptoms and pain	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	Any of a large group of cancers of lymphocytes (white blood cells)
Prognosis	expected outcome of a disease and it's treatment	Immunocompromised	Or immune suppression. Body is unable to fight infection.

Refractory	Resistant to treatment	Opiate	Potent substance to treat pain or induce sleep. Contains opium. Heroin, Morphine.
Relapse	the disease comes back after a period in remission	Opioid (narcotic)	A substance used to treat moderate to severe pain. Opioids act like opiates.
Remission	symptoms of cancer are no longer present	Operable	Describes a condition that can be treated by surgery
Staging	Categories for how far the disease has spread	Oncology	Study of cancer
Total Body Irradiation (TBI)	Radiation to the whole body (eg. Prior to a BMT)	Malignant mesothelioma	A rare type of cancer in which malignant cells are found in the lining of the chest or abdomen. Associated with exposure to asbestos.

ANATOMY-RELATED TERMINOLOGY

Arteries	Supply oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body.	Splenomegaly	Enlarged spleen
Capillaries	Distribute oxygen to the tissues and removes wastes from the blood	Hemophilia	An inherited disease that prevents the normal clotting of blood.
Erythrocytes	Red blood cells, carry hemoglobin which combines with oxygen	Mucosa (Mucous membranes)	The lining of the mouth and gastrointestinal tract.
Leukocytes	White blood cells that fight infection	Carcinoma	A type of cancer that starts in the skin or the lining of organs.
Lymph nodes	Contain lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell), plasma, and macrophages (cells that "eat" bacteria).	Adenopathy	Any disease involving or causing enlargement of glands and lymph nodes.
Spleen	Located to the left side	T4 Cell:	A type of T-lymphocyte. The

	of the abdomen, it stores blood.		T4 cell enhances the immune response to an infection.
Stem Cells	The new blood cells that are formed in the bone marrow.	Lumbar Puncture (Spinal tap)	A procedure in which fluid from the subarachnoid space in the lumbar region is aspirated for examination. Also known as spinal tap.
Thrombocytes	Also called platelets, to aid in forming clots.	Lipoma	A benign (not cancer) tumor made of fat cells.
Thymus gland	Located in front of the heart, produces T-lymphocytes that are important in immune system regulation.	Sarcoma	Cancer of connective tissue such as bone, cartilage, fat, muscle.
Veins	Carry blood back to the heart to be oxygenated.	HIV	The virus that causes the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome(AIDS). HIV attacks and slowly destroys the immune system .

PREFIX, ROOT WORDS, SUFFIX

Terminology	Prefix/Root Word	Root Word/Suffix	Meaning
Adenocarcinoma	Adeno -gland	Carcinoma – a type of cancer arising from skin or lining of organs	A cancer originating from a gland
Anti-fungal medication	Anti -against	Fungal -fungus	Medication to treat fungal infection.
Aplastic anemia	A - without Anemia – insufficient blood	plastic – to form	Failure of the bone marrow to produce enough red blood cells.
Bronchogenic carcinoma	Broncho - lungs	Carcinoma – a type of cancer	A cancer originating in the lungs or airways.
Carcinogen	Carcin - cancer	Gen –to cause	A substance that causes cancer.

Cervical carcinoma	Cervical – cervix of the uterus	Carcinoma – a type of cancer	A cancer of the cervix (the neck of the uterus).
Diagnosis	Di - double	Gnosis -knowledge	The identification of the disease.
Endometrial carcinoma	Endometrial –lining of the uterus	Carcinoma – a type of cancer	A cancer of the lining of the uterus.
Hematologist	Hem -blood	Logist -specialist	A doctor who specializes in the problems of blood and bone marrow.
Histopathology	Histo -cells	Path –disease Logy –study of	The study of microscopic cells and tissues relating to the disease
Mucositis	Mucos – mucus or mucosa	‘itis’ inflammation	Inflammation of the lining of the mouth or gastrointestinal tract.
Myeloma	Myelo - marrow	Oma - tumor	A malignant tumor of the bone marrow
Neoplasm	Neo -new	Plasm - formation	An abnormal growth of tissue, may not be cancerous.
Neutropenia	Neutro - neutral	Penia -deficient	A decreased number of neutrophils (a type of white blood cells).
Osteosarcoma	Osteo -bone	Sarcoma –a type of cancer that affects connective tissues.	Cancer that forms in cells of the bone, usually affects growing bone in children.
Prognosis	Pro -forward	Gnosis –to know	The projected outcome of a disease; the life expectancy.
Retinoblastoma	Retina –cells in the eyes Blast - type of cells	Oma -tumor	Cancer that forms in the tissues of the retina.
Thrombocytopenia	Thrombo – platelets (for blood clotting formation) Cyte- cell	Penia –deficient or lack of	An abnormally low number of platelets (thrombocytes).

EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING TERMS

leukocyte		alopecia	
leukemia		anorexia	
leukopenia		remission	
melanoma		relapse	
sarcoma		palliative	
Kaposi's sarcoma		lymph gland	
oncologist		lymphocytes	
lipoma		thrombocytopenia	
biopsy		adenopathy	
staging		cervical carcinoma	
carcinogen		opiate	
erythrocyte		splenomegaly	
benign		metastasis	

RESOURCES

AIDS.gov http://aids.gov/
Medical Dictionary http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html
Medical Encyclopedia http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html
Medline Plus Word Parts http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/appendixa.html
National Cancer Institute http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/
Wikipedia Root Words, Prefixes http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots