

Cancer, an introduction.

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What is Cancer?

- Cancer comes from within us
- It is a part of the tissue which becomes out of sync with that around it
- It is a growth that grows rapidly and needs to be controlled.
- Can be solid or in the blood.

Who gets Cancer?

- Presently statistics are showing that 1 in 3 will get cancer in their life time.
- By 2020 it is possible it will be 1 in 2
- A percentage of the population will get more than one primary cancer in their life
- Rarities – Columbian gent with lung cancer
- Different groups of the world population will get certain types of cancer

How do we deal with cancer?

- There are various options open to us today in relation to cancer. It very much depends on the cancer and also the individuals health and co-morbidities.
- It depends on what stage the cancer is on presentation.
- We look at radical or palliative options for the patient.

Treatment Modalities

- Surgery
- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Hormone therapy
- Radioactive Isotopes
- Active Surveillance
- Clinical Trial
- Combination of the above

Surgery

- This is the oldest method of treatment
- Most people think this is the option of choice but think:
 - Position of tumour
 - Possibility of disability
 - Possible decrease in quality of life

Radiotherapy

- Relatively new science in the history of medicine.
- Various options available:
 - Photons
 - Protons
 - Electrons
 - Brachytherapy

Chemotherapy

- Young science. First chemo developed from Mustine gas.
- Various ways to give chemo:
 - Tablet
 - Injection into body
 - Via a pump
 - Intrathecally

Immunotherapy

- Looking at compounds that inter-relate with cancers and in so doing stop the cancer development. On going work as have to identify these according to the cancer and each are specific to cancer proteins etc.

Hormone Therapy

- Most well know is Tamoxifen.
- Used in hormone related disease.
- Most common in breast and prostate cancer

Radioactive Isotopes

- Used mainly in liquid form these days for thyroid cancers.
- Can be used in plagues or seeds or as gas.

Active Surveillance

- As it says.
- Disease is present but not causing severe issues.
- Can be monitored and when activity changes the disease can be treated straight away.
- Very common in prostate cancer.

Clinical Trials

- There is a myth that if you are in a trial there is nothing more that can be done. This is not the case.
- Trials look at new drugs or combination of drugs
- Trials look at toxicity issues
- Trials can be comparative
- Trials can look at quality of life issues

Combination Therapy

- This is the most common form of treatment for patients
- Each patient and their disease is reviewed by a MDT (multidisciplinary team) to review the best ways of treating a cancer to ensure its treatment is the best quality and ensures the patient has best chance of being cured or given a good quality for the time they have left.

Treatment protocols

- Breast
- Prostate
- Bowel
- Liver
- Testicular

Questions?

Thank you

If you have queries or you know patients and carers who have questions or concerns do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,
Paul