ADVANCED NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER TREATMENT: PARTNERING WITH YOUR TEAM ON CARE DECISIONS

Patient Empowerment Network

Toolkit Program Resource Guide

Questions to Ask About Test Results

- What type of skin cancer do I have?
- How did my cancer arise?
- Has it spread? Where?

- Can we review my blood work?
- Have I had molecular testing?
- Are there genetic mutations present?

Multidisciplinary Skin Cancer Team Members

- Dermatologist
- Surgeon or surgical oncologist
- Dermatopathologist
- Medical oncologist
- Plastic surgeon

- Radiation oncologist
- Palliative and supportive care specialists
- Social worker
- Nurse navigator

Understanding Your Treatment Plan | Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- What is the goal of my treatment plan?
- What are the potential treatment side effects?
- What treatment response can I expect?
- How often will I receive treatment? Where?
- Have I had all essential testing, including molecular testing?
- What can I do to help prevent a similar type of cancer?
- Is there social/emotional support available to me and my family?

Glossary

Basal Cell Carcinoma: A skin cancer that forms in the outer layer of the skin. It is the most common form of skin cancer and rarely spreads to other parts of the body.

Biomarker Testing (molecular testing): Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

CT (Computerized Tomography) Scan: Provides detailed images of the body (including bones, blood vessels, and soft tissue) from a series of X-ray images from different angles around the body and uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images.

Hedgehog Inhibitors: Therapies that target the hedgehog signaling pathway.

Immunotherapy: Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

PET (Positron Emission Tomography) Scan: Imaging test that uses a special dye with radioactive tracers to allow your doctor to check for diseases in your body.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A skin cancer that forms in squamous cells, which are cells that form the surface of the skin. It is highly treatable but more likely to spread than basal cell carcinoma.

Targeted Therapy: A type of personalized medicine that works by blocking specific mutations and by preventing cancer cells from growing and dividing, without affecting normal cells.



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