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Integrated Distress Screening Shown to Decrease Distress in Patients with Multiple Myeloma

Poster at American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting

Highlights Results of Proactive Patient Assessment

SAN FRANCISCO - (Dec. 6, 2014) - Data presented today at the American Society of Hematology (ASH) annual meeting revealed that, in a study of 151 patients with multiple myeloma, 83 percent reported lower levels of distress when enrolled in a program that proactively screened for psychosocial distress.

The program, Onyx 360™, provides services to people with multiple myeloma including reimbursement and clinical support, transportation assistance and real-time referrals to key resources, such as psychosocial support. The program was first introduced in 2012 by Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., an Amgen subsidiary.

Patients in the program were asked to rate on a scale of 1-10 their level of concern related to four items that would indicate distress, including family life, work, finances and emotions. The study found that when proactively asked, patients were much more likely to accept support than when not screened.

Patients who reported high or moderate distress were enrolled in at least one of the Onyx 360 services and were rescreened approximately one month later. Distress levels decreased after patients engaged with resources in the Onyx 360 program.

“These data support taking a proactive approach to distress screening to ensure that patients have access to the appropriate resources that can potentially help them lower their distress levels,” said Pablo J. Cagnoni, M.D., president, Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc. “The Onyx 360 patient support and services program was created to address the needs of patients by offering reimbursement, co-pay and treatment support, along with referrals to third-party partners, such as Cancer Support Community, for counseling, transportation assistance and additional services that address the barriers that patients with multiple myeloma often face.”

Previous studies have shown that as many as 40 percent of cancer patients experience significant psychosocial distress, but fewer than 10 percent of patients use psychosocial supportive services, often due to lack of access and awareness. The increased engagement demonstrated by the study released at ASH is encouraging for the future of patient care.

“Patient access programs are often not equipped to help patients and caregivers with psychosocial challenges. The Onyx 360 program is unique in that it is helping patients gain access to medications and other services while also addressing their social and emotional needs,” said Kim Thiboldeaux, president and CEO of the Cancer Support Community.

The study was conducted by the Cancer Support Community and funded by an unrestricted grant from Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc., an Amgen subsidiary. The full poster can be accessed [here](#).

About the Cancer Support Community

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's Research and Training Institute is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's Cancer Policy Institute ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2013, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. For more information, please visit www.cancersupportcommunity.org

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