

Abstract: PB2571

Title: THE EFFECTS OF AN ONLINE CURRICULUM BASED APPROACH TO CME ON HEMATOLOGIST/ONCOLOGISTS' ABILITY TO TREAT PATIENTS WITH BTK INHIBITORS FOR CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA AND MANTLE CELL LYMPHOMA

Abstract Type: Publication Only

Topic: Chronic lymphocytic leukemia and related disorders - Clinical

Background:

The treatment paradigms for chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) are rapidly evolving. Fortunately, treatment options for CLL and MCL have expanded considerably in recent years thanks to an improved understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying this disease. Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors are one such treatment option. Although BTK inhibitors bring new hope to patients with CLL and MCL, the rapid introduction of these agents has also increased the complexity of treatment, making it challenging for hematologist/oncologists to incorporate these novel therapies into clinical practice. Given how quickly the use of BTK inhibitors in CLL and MCL treatment is evolving, it is difficult for even the most conscientious healthcare providers to stay up to date on advances.

Aims:

The aim of this study was to determine whether a comprehensive continuing medical education (CME) online curriculum could improve hematologist/oncologists' knowledge, competence, and confidence in managing therapy for CLL and MCL with BTK inhibitors.

Methods:

The educational analysis consisted of 6 online, CME-certified activities. Educational impact was assessed with repeated pre-/post-education including multiple choice knowledge/competence questions and 5-point Likert scale confidence questions. Data from hematologists/oncologists who completed pre- and/or post-education assessments were analyzed. Absolute changes in percentage of correct responses and clinicians who were confident (value of 4 or 5) were used to measure improvement in knowledge, competence, and confidence. A McNemar's test assessed significant levels of changes reported with P values < .05 considered statistically significant. The activities in this series launched March 21, 2023 through December 5, 2023, with each activity being available to learners for 1-year from launch date; data were collected through December 2023.

Results:

Multiple questions were used to aggregate data by theme across the 6 activities (n ranged from 102-169). Overall improvements in absolute change in knowledge/competence by learning theme were observed (Table 1). Hematologist/oncologists demonstrated statistically significant improvements in knowledge/competence related to awareness of the MOA of emerging BTK inhibitors, implementing guidelines-based treatment strategies in MCL, safety/efficacy evidence of current and emerging CLL therapies, and safety/efficacy evidence of MCL therapies. 52% of hematologist/oncologists improved confidence in their ability to describe the most recent data with BTK inhibitors for B-cell malignancies after education (P<.001).

Table 1 – Assessment of Knowledge/Competence of Hematologist/Oncologist by Learning Theme

Hematologist/oncologist assessment of knowledge and competence by learning theme	Pre (%)	Post (%)	Absolute Improvement Change (%)	P-value
Awareness of the MOA of emerging BTK inhibitors	49	73	24	<.001
Ability to implement guideline-based treatment strategies in MCL	28	81	53	<.001
Recognize safety/efficacy evidence of current CLL therapies	28	50	22	<.001
Recognize safety/efficacy evidence of emerging CLL therapies	47	67	20	<.001
Recognize safety/efficacy evidence of MCL therapies	41	60	19	<.001

Summary/Conclusion:

An online curriculum-based approach was successful in improving knowledge, competence, and confidence of hematologist/oncologists' ability to personalize care with BTK inhibitors for patients with B-cell malignancies. These results show the ability of education to translate to improvements in clinical care for patients with CLL and MCL. Continued curricula-based education can serve as a comprehensive means to further increase clinicians' abilities in this clinical setting and optimize patient outcomes.

Keywords: Mantle cell lymphoma, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia