

Unanswered Questions from Lunch & Learn October 22, 2014

Smoking Cessation in Oncology – Kristie Morydz

Is there a standard definition of performance status?

We use Gritz et al (1999) definition “Quality of life is a multidimensional state of being that includes physical, functional, and social well-being of one’s self.”

Are you seeing more electronic cigarettes that patients are using? And is this causing any special challenges to their cessation efforts?

Yes, we are seeing more e –cigarette use. We are trying to educate with what information is available. E-cigarette use is not encouraged as it is unregulated. I believe I cannot advise someone to use a product that we don’t know what is in it, nor do we have any information on long term health consequences.

Did you involve your local Public Health unit in any aspect of the program?

We do not at this time. Currently our program is independent out of CCMb, but we do try to collaborate with other partners when we can, such as the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Are dental hygienists getting involved?

There are no dental hygienists at CCMb, and dentistry is not directly involved. However dentistry at the U of M have been involved in cessation education for their students and trying to develop that for their practice.

Are there any chemo medications that contraindicate use of Champix? Have you a list of oncology drugs not advised to be used in conjunction with Zyban?

We don’t know of any interactions with Champix when looking at chemotherapy drugs, many have not been studied. However the pathway with Champix is different than a drug like Zyban, and has fewer drug interactions as a result.

What are the "parameters" to define how many days /weeks do you consider the patient to be quit or relapsed?

We do not have parameters. We do monitor and document their quit over time starting at their quit date. From their quit date on we consider them quit, unless there is a relapse.

Can we please get some more information around using the NRT products while going through the chemotherapy or radiation therapy?

There is limited information on this, however it is seen as being a cleaner form of nicotine. There are less interactions with NRT than with smoking, where the circulating smoke changes metabolism of drugs and the CO in the body.