Management of Immunotherapy Related Rash

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Background
- Along with the growing success of immunotherapy comes the emergence of patient and provider-reported adverse effects. Dermatologic toxicities are one of the most common adverse effects reported.
- The management of immunotherapy-related rash is an important clinical concept as it can greatly influence the patient’s quality of life, and ultimately their buy-in to continued treatment. Therefore, Patient Quality Intervenent (PQI) strategies are fundamental for the care providers of this patient population.

Objectives
- Identify an educational opportunity for stakeholders in the success of immunotherapy and most substantially in the outcome of the patient’s care plan.
- Illustrate the concept of Positive Quality Intervention as it relates to the management of this condition.

Methods
- First, a thorough review was done of the relevant PQI provided by NCODA.
- Second, there was a comprehensive inquiry into peer reviewed articles and journals using key terms. Databases searched included the National Health Network. The search process uncovered hundreds of peer reviewed articles ranging in publication dates that expand the last decade.

Discussion

PQI Process:
- Identify high risk patients – All immunotherapy patients
  - Note – patients may be reluctant to bring up adverse effects that they are experiencing. Ask directly if they have a rash
- Determine the grading of the rash (pharmacist or provider)
  - Grade 1 – Covers < 10% body surface area or without symptoms. Mild or localized itching with or without symptoms. Intense or widespread itching.
  - Grade 2 – Covers 10-30% body surface area with or without symptoms. Intense or widespread itching
  - Grade 3-4 – Covers > 30% body surface area, limiting actives of daily living, severe itching, affects sleep, life threatening or requiring possible hospitalization

*The full version of the PQI process can be found by scanning the QR code below.

Patient Centered Activities:
- Provide education:
  - Counsel patient on all medications and provide Oral Chemotherapy Education (OCE) sheets as necessary/needed
  - Proper skin care tips and tricks
- Infection Prevention
- Monitor Skin
- Importance of calling provider if rash worsen

Conclusion
- Data shows that immunotherapy driven treatment plans are increasing in popularity amongst patients and their healthcare providers. Clinicians often use various tools to aid in their clinical decision making. The PQI’s provided by NCODA are valuable resources that if properly referenced can improve patient outcomes. This leads to increased chances that the patient will stay on board with treatment despite occasional adverse events.

References

Graphics


Scan me to view the full PQI!