Optimizing the Efficiency and Quality of Sipuleucel-T Delivery in an Academic Institution

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Background: Sipuleucel-T, an autologous cellular immunotherapy, is approved for the treatment of certain patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). Sipuleucel-T is the first personalized treatment for prostate cancer to be manufactured using the immune system of each individual patient. Patient preparation and compliance are critical because patients undergo serial leukapheresis and reinfusion procedures within a relatively short time period, which may result in transient reactions.

Objectives: The study aims to identify patients best suited for sipuleucel-T treatment, provide an overview of treatment, and encourage infusion sites to consider a primary contact model for the efficient coordination of care.

Methods: Treatment experiences were evaluated from 124 patients with mCRPC who received sipuleucel-T from January 2010 to August 2013 according to current best practices. Feedback was collected from reflective interdisciplinary discussion within the sipuleucel-T delivery team (nurses, advanced practice providers, urologists, and medical oncologists).

Findings: Early patient identification and education on treatment rationale, delivery, and expectations help ensure a successful sipuleucel-T treatment experience. A multidisciplinary coordinated-care process can facilitate proficient sipuleucel-T delivery, and the selection of a primary contact for care coordination offers benefits, such as clear and efficient education.