Preventing Tumor Lysis Syndrome: Two Case Studies of Unexpected Outcomes

Martha R. Sleutel, PhD, RN, CNS, William Brown, RPh, and Jo Nell Wells, PhD, RN-BC, OCN®

**Background:** Tumor lysis syndrome (TLS) is a potentially fatal complication in patients with large, rapidly proliferating tumor cell cancers that may occur after chemotherapy. Patients with TLS are complicated to treat and often have an unpredictable trajectory.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this article is to report two cases with unusual clinical manifestations and unexpected outcomes during cancer treatment and to share best practices for this situation.

**Methods:** The authors described details from two unusual cases and outlined lessons learned. The authors described a newly developed clinical order set (protocol) to support optimal care for patients at risk for TLS.

**Findings:** Implementing best practices, the order set prompts early identification of TLS risk and provides step-by-step guidance to eliminate or control TLS.

**Diagnosis**

TLS is diagnosed by laboratory tests and clinical signs and symptoms. Some healthcare teams follow the Cairo-Bishop...