A Scandinavian Point of View

Caring for patients with sarcoma across boundaries

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Sarcomas are rare connective tissue malignancies. Patients and their families often experience many challenging problems during the cancer journey. Professionals working in this complex landscape need to collaborate to optimize patient outcomes.

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How can nurses working with this rare form of cancer achieve these important benefits?

To facilitate collaboration among Scandinavian sarcoma professionals, the Scandinavian Sarcoma Group (SSG) was formed in 1979. The SSG is composed of subgroups of oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, tumor biologists, nurses, and physiotherapists from Scandinavian countries. The aim of the SSG is to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with sarcoma by sharing information and education, and coordinating basic and clinical research (Alvegård, Sundby Hall, Bauer, & Rydholm, 2009). The group produces protocols, guidelines, and recommendations collaboratively with an international sarcoma community awareness program, and an international sarcoma forum for nurses and allied professionals working at the Norwegian Radium Hospital, which is part of Oslo University Hospital in Norway (Fuglø & Petersen, 2017). Because nurses and physiotherapists work close together during the treatment of patients with sarcoma,