

Care Model in Hematological Cancer Conclusions of the III Workshop of the Spanish Hemato-Geriatrics Working Group



Concepcion Boque¹, Maite Antonio², Raul Cordoba³, Esperanza Lavilla⁴, Santiago Bonanad⁵, Jose Luis Sanchez-Majano⁶, Monica Ballesteros⁷, Juan Bargay⁸, Asunción Mora⁹, Beatriz Garcia¹⁰, Meritxell Nomdedeu¹¹, Josep Alcaraz¹², Javier Martinez-Peromingo¹³, on behalf of the Spanish Hemato-Geriatrics Working Group.

1. Department of Clinical Hematology, Institut Català d'Oncologia., Barcelona. 2. Oncohematogeriatric Unit. Institut Català d'Oncologia - Hospital Duran i Reynals, Barcelona. 3. Fundacion Jimenez Diaz, Madrid. 4. Hospital Lucus Augusti, Lugo. 5 Hospital Universitario la Fe, Valencia. 6. Hospital San Juan de Alicante, Alicante. 7. Hospital Gregorio Marañon, Madrid. 8. Hospital Son Llatzer, Palma de Mallorca. 9. Hospital Infanta Sofia, Madrid. 10 Hospital de Getafe, Madrid. 11. Clinica Plató, Barcelona. 12. bcscience, Barcelona. 13. Hospital Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid.

Background

As a consequence of the ageing of the population a dramatic increase of the incidence of the hematological malignancies is expected. The Spanish hematological centers will see during the next years how the concentrated growth will be with older patients and their particular needs. Despite the obvious need to establish common ground in the managing of this population, the diversity of resources available to each center makes it difficult to establish a unified health care strategy. The Spanish-Hemato-Geriatrics Group was created on behalf of the Spanish Society of Hematology to harmonize the management of old patients. On February 2017 the III Workshop was held with the participation of professionals from the different disciplines involved in the handling of the old patient.

Purpose

To design a model of care for the old patients with hematological malignancies applicable in our health system scenario.

Methods

Of the 90 assistants 75 were hematologist, 10 geriatricians 4, palliative care physicians and 5 clinical nurses. All participants were divided in 5 groups distributed regarding their topics of interest. Each group discussed 3 main topics. Main topics were divided as follows: clinical process, organizing fields, research and training.

Results

The goal of designing a model of care for the old patients concluded with the following proposals:

- ✓ All old hematological patients, except those who are in their last days or weeks, should be assessed as potentially treatable.
- ✓ Advocate for the setting up multidisciplinary teams with the presence of hematologist, geriatricians and other specialists, usually fragmented and deficiently connected.
- ✓ Advocate for the presence of "case management nurses"
- ✓ Give training to hematologists, geriatricians and nurses
- ✓ Highlight the importance of early detection of frailty to plan tailored treatment, accordingly.
- ✓ Utilization of validated screening tool to detect those vulnerable patients who are candidates a Comprehensive Geriatric assessment (CGA) by qualified personnel.
- ✓ Utilization of the **Geriatric Assessment in Hematology (GAH)** scale to standardize protocols of treatment and care.
- ✓ Involve Palliative Care Units in cases to control the symptoms regardless of the treatment that the patient is receiving.
- ✓ Generate database to obtain clinical evidence and define quality indicators for the evaluations of the strategies proposed.
- ✓ Promote multidisciplinary research designed specifically for old patients.
- ✓ Elaborate guidelines and protocols specific for elderly patients
- ✓ Promote and conduct pre and postgraduate specific training for professionals involved
- ✓ Spread the culture of hemato-geriatrics as a transdiscipline area of knowledge.