

Comprehensive cancer pain management

Nathan I. Cherny

Department of Medical Oncology, Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel

The management of pain among patients with advanced cancer is a central aspect of oncological care, a pivotal clinical responsibility and an ethical imperative. This is equally true for medical oncologists, radiotherapists, palliative medicine specialists and paramedical staff.

Oncologists must have a high level of expertise in the assessment and management of cancer pain. This issue has recently been highlighted by the publication of the ESMO policies on Palliative and Supportive Care. The policy states; “Medical oncologists must be **experts** in the evaluation and management of the common physical symptoms of advanced cancer including: pain . . .” [1].

In this session we will review some of the critical and topical issues in the management of cancer pain. Four papers will address core issues in the

management of cancer pain: opioids, Nathan Cherny, Israel, adjuvant analgesic therapies, Johan Menten, Belgium, palliative radiation therapy, Jean Pierre Gerard, France and invasive analgesic approaches, Serdar Erdine, Turkey. The topical issue of complimentary and alternative medicine approaches will be reviewed by Jacky Filshie, UK.

These five papers will highlight core knowledge and describe evolving strategies in a way that is relevant to the practicing cancer clinician.

Reference

- 1 Cherny NI, Catane R, Kosmidis P. ESMO takes a stand on supportive and palliative care. *Ann Oncol* 2003, **14**(9), 1335–1337.