

Introduction to the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Series Transcript

Professional Oncology Education

Inflammatory Breast Cancer

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Time: 2:50

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I am Doctor Naoto Ueno, Section Chief, Section of the Translational Breast Cancer Research, Department of Breast Medical Oncology. I am also Executive Director of the Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Program and Clinic at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. This is the only multidisciplinary clinic in the world solely dedicated to treating and studying inflammatory breast cancer or IBC.

The purpose of this series of professional educational programs is to share with you some of the latest information about this unique and complex disease, so that then you can recognize it early and take appropriate therapeutic action when you see a patient who may have this devastating disease.

IBC is an extremely aggressive disease. One of the major difficulties in effectively making the diagnosis of IBC is that it is difficult to recognize the symptoms and signs, and patients are frequently diagnosed with acute mastitis prior to the diagnosis of IBC. Comprehensive baseline assessment and timely initiation of appropriate therapy is essential. Moreover, it is important to have the opportunity to access a multidisciplinary management team. Finally, the opportunity to utilize new investigational agents and new therapies is imperative, because the prognosis of patients with IBC has only marginally improved with standard therapies over the last 10 to 15 years. Therefore, we believe that initial referral to a cancer center that has an IBC program is important for such a complex and unique disease. This approach will assure early definitive diagnosis by a complete diagnostic work up that also includes patient imaging, such as MRI and PET CT. Furthermore, a multidisciplinary team of experienced clinicians available at a dedicated cancer center may significantly improve the prognosis and outcome of patients with IBC. These clinicians are able to address local therapies in the form of specialized surgery, unique radiation therapy techniques, systemic therapies, and provide with the best up-to-date investigational agents that may lead to superior outcome than current therapy for your patients with IBC.

We hope the lectures, included in this series, will improve your understanding of IBC. We at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center have developed the expertise for this particular disease. We hope to answer questions and partner with you in the care of your patients. We also have developed therapeutic agents and a multidisciplinary team that may improve the outcome or prognosis of your patients. Finally, we also have many basic and clinical researchers studying IBC. Please let us know if this series is valuable to you, and how we can provide further assistance.