Join us to discuss the issue of fungal infections in patients with cancer, including risk factors, presentation, diagnostics, and treatment. You’ll get an overview of how you can prevent infections during cancer treatment, with information on risk factors, evidence-based patient care, and the use of pharmacologics.

Target Audience: Clinical Registered Nurses

Level of Content: Intermediate

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Nothing to Disclose

Objectives:
At the end of this session, participants will be able to:
1. Identify predisposing factors for fungal infection.
2. Differentiate the types of fungal infection.
3. Interpret diagnostic tests for fungal infection.
4. Identify treatment options.
5. Use current PEP Guidelines to review prevention-of-infection evidence to care for neutropenic patients.

Content Outline:
I. Predisposing factors
   A. ANC < 500 for > 10 days
   B. Central venous catheter
   C. Total parenteral nutrition
   D. Mechanical ventilation

II. Types of fungal infections
   A. Candidiasis albicans, glabrata, tropicalis, and parapsilosis
   B. Source of Candidiasis: Fungemia, gastrointestinal, and hepatosplenic
   C. Mold infections
   D. Aspergillus fumigatus, flavus, and terreus
   E. Fusarium
   F. Diagnostic test for mold infection
      a. Galactomannan
      b. Beta-D glucan
      c. Halo sign
      d. Air crescent sign on CT scan of chest

III. Treatment for fungal infection
   A. AmBisome®, Abelcet®, amphotericin B
   B. Cancidas or micafungin for candidemia
   C. Azoles: Fluconazole, voriconazole, and posaconazole
   D. Supportive therapy: GCSF, GMCSF, and white cell transfusions

IV. Prevention of infection: evidence-based best practices
   A. Environment
   B. Central-line care
   C. Personal care
   D. Use of growth factors
   E. Antimicrobial use
      a. Antibiotics
      b. Antifungals
      c. Antivirals
      d. Other

Bibliography: